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THE HISTORIE

of Frier Rvsh: how he came to a

house of Religion to seeke service, and being entertained by the Priour, was first made vnder Cooke.

Being full of pleafant mirth and delight for young people.



Imprinted at London by Edw. All-de, dwelling neere Christ-Church.

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¶ A pleasant History, how a Deuill

(named Rush) came to a Religious

house, to seeke a seruice.

THERE was fometime beyond the Sea edified and founded a certaine house and Cloister of Religious men, which house was founded at a great Forrests side, for to maintaine the feruice of almighty God, and daily to pray for their benefactors and founders, and for the faluation of their owne foules: which place by reason of their founders and well disposed people (which gaue vnto it largely of their goods and possessions) increased in riches, and euery man had gold and filuer at their will, and also of meate and drinke they had great plenty: in fo much that they were fo well at ease and had so much, that they wist not what to doe they were so full of wantonnesse, whereby the service of almighty God was not well maintained among them: for oftentimes they faid neither Mattins nor Euenfong: and through their great negligence they forgat cleane the charge that they were bound to when they entred into their Religion, and they lived more like beafts without reason, then like men of good and holy conversation: for they haunted harlots and lived viciously, and the goods that was given them by good and well disposed people, they fpent in vnthriftinesse and rybauldry. And when the great Prince of Deuils which are the Patrones of all vices

vices vnderstood of the great misrule and vile liuing of these Religious men: consulted to keepe them still in that state, and worse if it might be. And these be the

names of the Deuils.

Belphegor who was Prince of Gluttony, Asmodeus Prince of Lechery, And Belzebub Prince of Enuie, with many other Diuels affembled together, which reioyced for the misorder of these Religious men. And as they were all affembled together with one accord: they chose a Diuell to goe and dwell among these Religious men, for to maintaine them the longer in their vngracious liuing, which Diuell was put in rayment like an earthly creature, and went to a Religious house, and there he stood at the gate a certaine space all alone with an heavie countenance. Then within a while after the Priour came vnto the gate and espied Rush the young man standing there all alone. Anon he faid vnto him, what dost thou here, and what wouldest thou haue. young man with great reuerence answered and faid: Sir, I am a poore young man, and am out of feruice, and faine would have a Maister. And Sir if it please you to have me, I shall doe you diligent service, and shall doe so well that you and all your brethren and couent shall be glad of me, for I shall keepe so well your fecrets, that I trust to obtaine at all times your good loue and fauour, and all theirs also.

And when the Priour had heard his words, he was mooued with pittie, and faid: Goe into the Kitchin to the Cooke, and shew him that I have sent thee thither, and bid him shew thee what thou shalt doe: for thou shalt be with him a certaine season, till that some other better thing fall. Then the young man made his reverence to the Priour, and thanked him, and foorth he went to the Kitchin, where hee found the maisser.

maister Cooke. Anon he made reuerence vnto him, and said: Sir, my Maister the Priour hath sent me hither vnto you, and he commaundeth you to shew me what I shall doe, for I must be here and helpe you. The maister Cooke answered and said, you be welcome. And anon hee set him to such businesse as he had to doe. And thus the Deuill became vnder-Cooke in the place that he was assigned vnto, by the Prince of Deuils. And then hee said (laughing to himselse) as solloweth.

These being the words of the Deuill.

Am right glad that my purpose is come so well to passe, for now all mine intent is sulfilled, and I doubt not but all shall be ours: for I shall make such debate and strife among the Friers, that they shall neuer be at concord and peace. And I shall make them good staues wherewith the one shall beate well the other: and often times they shall lye together by the eares, in so much that there was neuer seen nor heard tell of such a rumour and discord in no Cloyster in the world. And I shall vse my selfe so, that I shall be in great loue and fauour among them.

Then within foure or fiue dayes after, it fortuned that the Priour came into the Kitchin, and there he found the young man, to whom he faid, where wast thou borne, and what is thy name? The young man answered and said, Sir, I was borne very farre hence, and Rush is my name. Then said the Priour vnto him, Rush, canst thou couple Hounds together? Yea Sir (said Rush) that I can doe right well, and more then that, for I can couple men and women together, which is a more mastrie, and also Sir (if neede be) I can conuay a faire woman into your chamber, and conuay her

home againe in the morning fo fecretly, that no man shall fpye it. And also I shall keepe your counsaile so fecretly, that it shall neuer be knowne. And when the Priour heard Rush speake so, he was right glad of him, and faid: Rulb, if thou canst doe as thou hast said? I shall reward thee well for thy labour, and thou shalt be my most welbeloued servant: wherefore make an end of thy businesse, for soone thou shalt goe a little way on a message for me, and so he departed and went to supper. And when every man had supped, and Rush had done all his businesse in the Kitchin, hee came vnto his maister the Priour, and said, Sir, what is your will with me? the Priour answered and said: here a little beside dwelleth a faire Gentlewoman, the which I loue very well, but I dare not discouer my minde vnto her my felfe: and if thou canst finde the meanes to bring her fecretly vnto me, I shall reward thee right well for thy labour and paine. And when Rush had heard the words of his Maister, and knew all his minde, he anfwered and faid: Sir, be of good cheere, and let mee alone with that matter: for I shall goe vnto the Gentlewomans house, and I shall say your message so well, that this night she shall come to you: and so departed Rush from his Maister, and went straight vnto this Gentlewomans house. And when he was thither come, hee found the Gentlewoman fitting all alone. And when Rush was espied of her, he made vnto her great courtesie, and with many reuerences these words he faid.

How

How a Deuill named Rush came vnto a Gentlewomans house, and how he brought her privily vnto his Maisters chamber.

Rest you merry saire Mistresse, the most fairest creature in the world. My Maister greeteth you by me, desiring you to come and speake with him. Then said the Gentlewoman to Rush, who is your Maister, and what is his will with me? faire Mistresse, said Rush, I will shew you, my Maister is the Priour in a house of Religion here beside, and he loueth you so well except that you come vnto him this night, I know he will be dead for sorrow.

Here followeth the answere of the Gentlewoman.

↑ Nd when the Gentlewoman had heard the words of Rush, shee answered and said, Faire Sir, it were great pittie that the Gentleman should die for my sake, and rather then he should so doe for me, I will come to him, and shew him all the courtesie that I can. Rush was very glad of those comfortable words, and thought that his enterprise was well brought to passe, and he said vnto her: Faire Mistresse, may it please you to take the labour and goe with me, and I shall bring you to my Master, and as I suppose, hee will make you good cheare, and Gold and Siluer you shall lacke none, for hee hath great plenty thereof. Then faide the Gentlewoman, Sir, I pray you let vs depart hence: for as I suppose the Gentleman looketh long for vs. So foorth they went both together, till they came to the Priours Chamber. And when the Priour fawe that she was come: he was the gladdest man in the world, and thanked Rush much for his labour and paine: And so the Priour received her her into his chamber, and there he made her good cheere, and they had good meate and wine great plenty. And when they had well refreshed themselues, Rush departed, and went to the Kitchin, and left the Priour and the Gentlewoman alone, and there she saued the Priours life. And when Rush was in the Kitchin, hee said vnto himselse: I am right glad that I have brought this matter so well to passe: and I doubt not but they will agree well enough together, for they be both of one accord. And when the other Friers perceived that Rush was fuch a privile fellow, and so well could keepe counsaile: they defired him to helpe them also, and so he did: for he brought to euery man, the woman that they most defired, whereof they had great meruaile. But they were fo blinded with ignorance, that they neuer perceived that he was a very Deuill, but euery man had him in loue and fauour.

How Frier Rush threw the maister Cooke into a kettell of water seething upon the fire, wherein he died.

IT befell vpon a day that Rush went forth to sport him, and it was very late ere he came home againe, and the maister Cooke was very angry with him that hee was so long absent. And as soone as Rush was entred into the Kitchin: the Cooke began to chide, and said vnto him, thou horson knaue where hast thou beene so long: and with a great staffe hee laid vpon Rush and beat him sore. And when Rush saw that the Cooke was angry, and so farre out of reason, and that he had beaten him sore: anon he began to waxe very angry with the maister Cooke, and said vnto him: thou horson villaine, why hast thou beaten me thus: I will be reuenged on thee: and suddainly he caught him in his

his armes, and threw him into a great kettell which was full of water feething vpon the fire, and faid, lye thou there in the Diuels name: for now thou shalt neither fight nor chide no more with me: and fo Rush flew the Maister Cooke. Then when hee had so done, hee departed out of the Kitchin, and went to the next Towne to fetch the faire woman againe for his Maifter: and in his absence certaine of the Friers came into the Kitchin to speake with Rush, but they found no body stirring therein, and some of them went to stand by the fires fide, to tarie till Rush came in: for they thought he would not tarie long. And as they flood talking by the fires fide, they spied a man in the Kettell feething vpon the fire. And anon they perceived that it was the maister Cooke, whereof they were greatly abashed. And with that (crying out) they went vnto the Priour and shewed him that the maister Cooke had drowned himselfe in a Kettell seething vpon the fire in the Kitchin: for which tydings the Priour was right forrie. And in the meane feafon Rush came home, and had conueyed the woman into his Maisters chamber. And anon the Friers shewed Rush of the great misfortune that was fallen on the Maister Cooke in the Kitchin, and he made as he had beene forrie therefore, and had knowne nothing thereof, and he was in great loue and fauour with the Priour and all the Friers, that they mistrusted him nothing for that deede, and so there was no more mention of the Maister Cooke. Then the Priour commanded that Rush should be made Cooke, and all the Couent was right glad of that, and so he was himselfe also, for he thought his enterprises came well to passe after his minde, and as he would haue it. Thus Rush became Maister Cooke in the Kitchin, and dreffed their meate meruailous well: for in in the Lent, and in the Aduent, both Fridayes and also other dayes, he put Bacon into their pottage pot, the which made the pottage to favour well, and he dreffed their meate so deliciously, that the Priour and all the Friers had great meruaile that he did it so well: in so much that they faid he did much better then their other Maister Cooke did, & that he was a more cunninger man in his occupation, and could doe much better in his office. Thus Rush continued in that office the fpace of feauen yeares, and did right well, and euery man had him in loue and fauour. Then it fortuned vpon a day the Priour and his brethren were affembled together in a generall counsaile, and as they stood talking together, the Priour remembred Rush, and anon he said vnto his brethren: Friends we have here Rush which is our Maister Cooke in our Kitchin, and he is an olde feruant, and much diligent and true feruice he hath done to vs, and he hath continued among vs longer then any feruant that euer wee had: wherefore me thinke it reason, that hee were promoted into some other office, and made a brother among vs. Then all the whole Couent with one voice faid they were content it should so be. So the Priour sent for Rush, and when he was come before him and all his brethren, the Priour said, Rush it is so, thou hast beene here a long feafon, and we have found thee hitherto a true and diligent feruant, wherefore wee will that thou be promoted, and take vpon thee an habite as we haue, and to become a brother among vs. Rush answered and faid: my Maisters I thanke you all, and then the Priour gaue Rush an habite, and put it on his backe, and so Rush became a brother in the place, neuerthelesse he kept his office still.

How Frier Rush made Truncheons for the Friers to fight withall.

When Rush had on the habite of a Frier, and was a brother in the place, he had more vacation dayes then he had before. And as a King or a great Prince prepareth ordinances against their warres, in likewise did Frier Rush: for when all his businesse was done in the Kitchin, and that he had leyfure, he went and fate in the Port of the vtter gate, and there he was making of good bigge Truncheons of Oke. And he made them with Hilts over the hand for slipping, of the which the other Friers had great meruaile, & demanded of him wherefore he made those Truncheons. Rush answered and faid: Faire Sirs, I make them for this intent: that if there come any theeues hither for to rob vs, and to fpoile our place, yet shall we have weapons to defend vs withall. And therefore I make them. And moreouer, when any neede shall be, come to mee and euery man shall have one, and they shall be ready at your commandement, and then the Friers thanked him and fo departed. Then it fortuned vpon a day, that the Priour and Subpriour fell at discord, and were greeuously. angry, the one with the other, and would have fought together, but onely for shame: neuerthelesse, the anger abode still in their hearts, and all was for an harlot within a while after, the noyfe fpread abroad among the Friers, that the Priour and the Subpriour were fallen at discord, for the which they were angry in their mindes. And they that loued the Priour, tooke his part, and they that loued the Subpriour, tooke his part, and so they murmured among themselues. Then they appointed in their mindes to reuenge their quarrels at one time

time or other, and so to make a more furer way in fulfilling their malicious mindes and angry hearts, euery man after other went privately to Frier Rush to lend them stages, in so much that there was not a Frier in the place but he had one, and they neuer went without their staues under their habite, and the one knew not that the other had any, they kept them fo fecretly. And when Frier Rush had delivered all his staves, he was right glad in his heart, for he knew right well there should be a great fray among them, either one time or other. So it fortuned afterward, as it is a common custome among Religious people at an high feast, to keepe solemne service, and every man to be at Mattens at midnight, and fo vpon a good night, all the whole Couent assembled together in the Quier, and were ready to begin Mattens, they taried for nothing but for the comming of the Priour. Then anon the Priour came into the Quier, and fate him downe in his place, and as he looked about him, he espied that the Subpriour was there present, and with that his heart began to grudge of the olde anger that was fallen betweene them two, and he thought in his minde that he could neuer be reuenged in a better time, and fodainly he rose out of his place, and went to the Subpriour, and with his fift he gaue him a good buffet, and the Subpriour which was moued with the stroke, started vnto the Priour and gaue him another buffet, and with that they went freshly together by the eares, and when the other Friers faw that, euery man rose out of their places, and drew out their Truncheons, and together they went: who had been there should have seene good buffets given on both parties. And when Frier Rush faw that they were fighting together, anon he blew out all the Candles and Lamps that were burning in the Church, and left no manner

manner of light therein whereby the one might fee the other: and when he had so done, he tooke his Truncheon in his hand, and went into the Quier among the thickest of the Friers the which were fighting freshly without light, and there he laid so lustily about, that many of them he felled to the ground, and left them there for dead, and when he had so done, he stole his way from them, and as hee went, he found standing in the portall of the Quier, a great olde Deske, and anon hee tooke the Deske betweene both his hands, and threw it ouer the portall into the Quier among all the Friers, and hurt many fore, in so much that some had an arme broken, and some a legge, and other some had their noses cleane pared from their faces, that the bloud ranne in their mouthes, and as for broken heads to the hard scalpe were no dainty, for euery man had one, there scaped none free away, who had been there, should have had a goodly pastime to see the Friers creepe about the Quier, and in steede of (Domine labia) they cried out alas and well away. Then when the fray was done, and all the noyse seased, Rush came in among them with a Candell light in his hand, and made as he had knowne nothing thereof, and faid to them: Fie for shame Sirs, how fortuned this discord to fall among your selues? I fee well now you regard not your honour, nor the good name of your place. All the people shall say ye be not honest, nor good religious men, the which words I would be loath to heare, and I may not suffer our place fo to fall in an euill name: wherefore good Masters, I require you to set your hearts at rest, and put the matter into my hands, and I shall doe so much that all shall be well, and you shal be good friends againe, and no words shall be spoken thereof, then every man complained to him of their great hurt, and he made semblance as he

had been forie therefore and then they that could goe, went up to their Sels, and they that could not goe, did creepe vp as well as they could, and laid them downe in their beds, and there they lay till they were whole againe, and in the space of three weekes and more, God was euill ferued, for in all that space they sung neither Mattins nor Euensong, nor neuer entred into the Church for it was suspended, and for shame they durst neuer let it be knowne. And when they were all whole, and euery man vpon his feere againe, and might goe about the house, they brought againe their staues to Frier Rush, and thanked him much, and then Frier Rush said vnto them: Sirs when ye haue neede of them againe, ye shall finde them here ready at your commandement, for which they gaue him thankes, and departed. When Frier Rush faw that they were gone, and that he had all his staues againe, he laughed vnto himself and said: I am right joyfull that mine enterprises be come so well to passe, for I have done many mischieuous deeds since I came first, and yet I will doe more before I depart hence, for I shall cause them to be damned, and I shall bring their bodies and foules into the burning fire of hell, there to remaine world without end, and of me shall be spoken a thousand yeeres hereafter.

How Frier Rush grymed the Waggon with Tarre, and what cheare he made in the Country.

A Nother time it fortuned that the Priour had a iourney to ride into the Country about a little bufinesse that hee had there to doe, and anon he called Rush his servant vnto him and said, Rush goe thy way into the Court, and take with thee a dish full of greace, and greace well the wheeles and Axeltrees of the Waggon,

and

and make all things ready against to morrow in the morning, for I must ride forth to-morrow betimes, then Rush departed from his Maister, and went about his businesse, and in steed of greace, hee tooke a great vessell full of Tarre, and anointed the Waggon all ouer with it, both within and without, and especially in the place where the Priour should sit: and when he had done, he returned to his Maisters chamber, then the Priour demanded of Rush, if he had done as he commanded him: yea Sir said Rush, ye may ride when please you, and so they went to their beds. Then on the morrow after, the Priour and Rush his servant with his other company, rose vp very early in the morning for to accomplish their journey, and forth they went vnto their Waggon, and when the Priour was entred therein, hee perceiued himselfe all to berayed and smeyred, and all his clothes were filed therewith: and then he faid to Rush, thou lewd fellow, what hast thou done to this Waggon that I am thus arayed therein? Rush answered and said: Sir, I have done nothing but as you commanded me. That is not so said the Priour, for I commaunded thee to take greace and greafe but the wheeles and the Axeltrees, and thou hast taken Tarre and annointed it all ouer, both within and without. Why hast thou done so? Sir said Rush, I vnderstoode you bad me doe so. And when the Priour fawe there was no other remedie, he commanded his feruants to make ready another Waggon, and in the meane feafon, the Priour went into his Chamber, and put on another habite, and came againe and mounted into the Waggon and went their way, and so long they rode, that they came to their iourneyes end. And when they were alighted at their lodging, the Priour called for his supper, and anon every thing was made ready, and the good man of the house and the

the Priour fate downe to fupper together, and made good cheere and then the Priour called for wine of the best, and anon he had his commandement. And when the good man of the house and the Priour had supped, Rush and his fellowes fate downe to the reuerfions that their Maisters had left, but they had no wine: wherefore Rush was very fad, and euer he mused by what policie he might get some wine. And anon he called the wife of the house and faid: Mistresse, I pray you fill a pottle of wine for me and my fellowes, and so shee did: and when that was gone, they called for another: and then they called for the third, and so ended their supper. Then on the morrow when the Priour had done all his bufinesse, and was ready to returne home againe: he called for a reckoning. And anon, the good wife came in and gaue him a reckoning of all things, both horse meate and mans meate; and at last, she reckoned three pottels of wine that Rush and his fellowes had. And when the Priour heard that his feruants had drunke fo much wine: Anon he began to waxe very angry, and asked her, who commanded her to fill in so much wine? the wife answered and faid: Sir, Rush your feruant commaunded me to fill it in, and he faid that you should pay therefore. Then anon the Priour called for Rush, and faid vnto him: Thou lewd Knaue, why hast thou drunke fo much wine? Might no lesse then pottels ferue thee and thy fellowes? Sir, faid Rush, we have not drunke so much, for your horses hath had two of the pottels. My horses, said the Priour: what should they do with wine? Yes Sir, faid Rush, your horses laboured forer than we did, and were very weary, and they had nothing but Hay and Oates: wherefore, me thought it needefull to give them some good drinke to their course meate to comfort their hearts withall, and to cause them

to be the lustier, and to have the better courage to bring you homeward. And when the Priour had heard that answere of Rush, and saw there was no remedy but patience: he paid for the wine, and all things that he had taken there, and so rode home in his Waggon, and Frier Rush never went forth againe with his Master.

How the Priour made Frier Rush Sexton among the Friers, and how he charged him to give him knowledge how many Friers were absent from Mattins at midnight, and what they were.

WHen the Prior was come home, hee made Frier Rush Sexton of the Church, and his office was to ring the bell and to light the candles, and to cal the Friers to Mattins at mid-night, and also the Prior commaunded Rush & charged him, that he should take good heede that there were none of the Friers absent from Mattins, and if there were to give him knowledge thereof, then saide Rush to his master: Sir all your commaundement shalbe fulfilled, and so they departed. And within three or foure nights after, Rush espied certaine of the Friers that were absent, and he marked them well, and on the morrow after he presented them to the Prior, and anon the Prior caused them to come before him, and gaue them a check, for their being abfent; in a little time, Rush had presented them all which caused the Prior to be greatly offended with them: when they perceived that Rush had made such complaints against them, they had him in much disdaine, but they could not amend it: for hee had them in such great feare, that neuer after they durst be absent, but

well was hee that might be first in the Quier. When Rush perceived the Fryers had him in so great feare, he deuised to doe some mischieuous thing among them; and vpon a night, a little before he should ring to Mattins, he went and brake downe the staires of the Dorter, and when he had so done, hee went and rung to Mattins, and lighted the Lamps & Candles in the Church, and went into the Dorter, and called vp the Fryers, and so came and sate at the staires foote as he was wont to doe; he had fitten there but a while, but anon there came one, who thought no hurt but to goe foberly into the Quier as he was wont to doe, and when he came to the staires downe he fell, and had a meruailous great fal: then said Rush, thou art one. Presently there came another, and likewise downe he fell and had a sore fall, thou art two, faid Rush. Anon came the third Frier, which had a mightie great bellie, and was a grosse man, and he made great hast, for he feared that he should have been last, & when he came to the staires, downe he fell on his fellowes necks, and he was fo great and fo heavie, that almost he had mischieued his fellowes that lay vnder him: thou makest three faid Rush. And with that there came seauen or eight together, and downe they fell all at once. Softly masters for shame, said $Ru\beta b$, ye come too many at once, ye were not wont to be so hastie, but now I perceiue well ye would deceive me, and one would excuse the other, and therefore ye come so thick to blind me in my tale: How should I now give account to the Prior of them that be absent? Surely I cannot tell, but now I see well, ye be too subtil for me, I would some other man had mine office, and made as though he had beene verie angrie with them. Then the Fryers, fuch as could goe, though it were to their paines, rose vp againe, and

limping went into the Quier, and they that fell first and lay vnder, were fore hurt and could not goe, and specially the Frier with the great belly: yet neuerthelesse, they crept into the Quier, as well as they could. And when they were all assembled together in the Quier, each of them complained to other of their great hurts, and so they began Mattins: who had beene there, should have heard a heavie fong and a fad, for they were not merrie in their hearts, their paines were so great. When Mattins was done, they that could goe, went vp againe into their lodgings, and they that could not goe, lay still in the Quier all night: On the morrow, word was brought to the Prior of the great misfortune that was fallen among the Friers at midnight: for the which misfortune the Prior was greatly displeased and angry in his minde, & thought verily it was Rushes deede, for hee had done divers evill turnes before. Then the Prior fent for Rush to come speake with him, and when he was come, Prior said vnto Rush, how fell this misfortune to night among the Friers, that they be so fore hurt? Sir said Rush, I shall shew you, it is not vnknowne vnto you, that when you put me first into this office, ye commaunded me to give you knowledge when any of my brethren were absent from Mattins, and so haue I done diuers times, whereby many of them have beene shent and chidden by you, and for that cause, they owe me euill will, and faine would have me out of this office, if they wist how. And for to accomplish their desire, and to cause you to be displeased with mee: I shall shew you what they have done this night. Sir it is so, that when the time was come, I rung to Mattins and lighted candles, and made all things readie, and when I had so done I went into the Dorter to euery mans Sell and called them vp, then I went and stoode at the staire foot,

foot, for to tell them as they came downe, as I was accustomed to doe, and to knowe who came to Mattins, and who did not, and for spite that I should not reckon them, they came all on a cluster, and for hast the one thrust the other downe the staires, and he that had the greatest belly, had the hardest fall; now if they hurt themselues, what might I doe with all? And when the Prior had heard the words of Ru/b, he wist not what to say, but for to voyde all tribulations and missfortunes that might fall in time to come, he put Ru/b out of his office, and set him in the Kitchin againe, and when he was there all alone, he laughed to himselfe and said: this enterprise is well brought to passe, and I have made a good scuse thereof to the Prior, yet will I doe more ere I depart out of this place.

How Rush went forth a sporting, and was late forth, and how in his way comming home, he found a Cowe, which Cowe he deuided into two parts, the one halfe hee tooke on his necke and caried it with him, and the other halfe he left still: and how soone he had made it ready for the Friers suppers.

IT befell vpon a time that Rush when all his businesse was done in the Kitchin, he would goe forth into the Countrey to sport him and to passe the time with good company: as hee walked on his way, his chaunce was to come into a village, which was two or three mile from the place where hee did dwell, and when hee was entred into the village, hee looked round about him in euery corner to finde out some company to make merrie withall: and at the last, espied an Alehouse, and in he entred, and there hee found good fellowes playing

at Cardes, and drinking, and made cheare: then Rush made obeyfance to them, and fate downe among them, and dranke with the players, and afterward he fell to play, and was as merrie as any man in the company: and so long he played and passed the time, that cleane hee had forgotten what he had to doe at home, and the day went fast away, and the night approached. Anon Rush looked vp and perceived that it was almost night, remembred himselfe that there was nothing readie at home for the Priors supper and Couent, and it was almost supper time, wherefore he thought it was time to depart thence, so he payed for his drinke and tooke his leaue, and homeward he went, and in his way he found a fat Cowe grafing in the field, and fodainly he deuided her into two parts, and the one halfe he left lying there still, and the other halfe he tooke on his necke and carried it home, and quickly hee made it ready; some he put in the pot, and some vpon the spit, and he made a great fire and fet on the pot, and layd to the spit: and he made meruailous good pottage, and rosted the meate very well, and he made such speede, that euery thing was ready by the houre accustomed to goe to supper, whereof the Prior and all the Friers had great meruaile, that he had made euery thing readie fo foone, and was fo well done: for they knew that it was late ere he came home: for fome of the Friers had beene in the Kitchin a little before, and faw neither Cooke nor fire, nor any thing prepared toward supper: wherefore they gaue great praise to Rush, and said he was very quicke in his office.

How

How a Farmer of the Priors fought his Cowe, and how he was defolated by the way homeward, and was faine to lye in a hollow Tree: and of the vision that he had.

There was a poore husbandman, dwelling there be-fide, which was a Farmer of the Priors: the which poore man had a Cowe abroad in the fields, that was accustomed euery night to come home at a certaine houre, And at the last a mischaunce fell and neuer failed. vnto her, for Frier Rush had slaine her as she stoode in the field, and so shee failed of her comming home at her houre as shee was woont to doe. And when the poore man fawe that his Cowe came not home: he thought in his minde it was not well with her, so foorth he went in an euening for to feeke his Cowe, and fo long he trauailed about in the fields, that at the last hee found the one halfe of his Cowe lying there: but the other halfe was cleane gone, and shee was so cleanly deuided in two parts, that hee imagined in his minde, that it was not possible to be done by mans hands, for if any wilde beasts had done it, they would have spoyled the flesh: fo hee returned homeward againe, and ere hee came at the halfe way, the night was fo darke that he could not fee which way he went, and so hee went out of his way, and house could he finde none: and at the last he came to an hollow tree wherein he fate him downe, thinking there to take his rest all night, and he had not sitten there but a while: but anon there affembled a company of Deuils, and among them they had a great principall Maister whose name was Lucifer, and he was the first that spake: and the first that was called, was a Deuill him:

named Belzabub, and with a loud voyce, he faid vnto him: Belzabub what hast thou done for vs? Belzabub answered and faid: Sir I have caused debate and strife to fall betweene brother and brother, infomuch the one hath flaine the other: that is well done faid the maister Deuill, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then foorth he called another Deuill, named Incubus, and demaunded of him what he had done? Sir said Incubus, I haue caused great debate and strife, to fall betweene two Lords, through the which they have had great warres. and many men haue beene flaine: then faid the maister Deuill, thou art a true feruant to vs, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy great labour and paine. Then faid the great maister vnto another Deuill, named Norpell, what hast thou done for vs? Sir said Norpell, I have beene among players at the Dice and Cardes, and I have caused them to sweare many great oathes, and the one to flea the other: and also I have caused debate and strife to fall betweene man and wife, and caused the wife to cut her husband's throat: that was well done said the Master, thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then foorth came another Deuill named Downesnest, and faid: Sir I have caused two olde women to fight so fore together, and to beat each other about the head, that their eyes flew out: that was well done faid the master Deuill, with much thanke thou shalt be well rewarded for thy labour. Then foorth went Frier Rush freshly, and with a good courage, and said: Sir, I am in a Religious place, and I gouerne the Priour and his Couent as I will myselfe, and they have me in great loue and fauour: for I doe them many great pleasures, and I haue brought them faire wenches euery man one when they lust, and diverstimes I have caused debate and strife to fall among them, and I have made them staves and caused

caused them to fight stifly together, and to breake each others head, and their armes and legges, and yet will I doe more among them ere I depart out of the place, for I shall make so great debate and strife among them, and the one shall flea the other, then they shall come and dwell with vs in Hell, and burne in perpetuall fire with-Then faid the maister Deuill to Rush: if thou have done as thou hast faid, thou hast done well thy part, and I pray thee be diligent thy selfe about thy businesse, and stirre them to sin, and specially to these three, that is to fay, Wrath, Gluttony, and Lechery, and briefely to make an end of thy enterprise, and slip it not: and when thou hast done, come home, and thou shalt be highly exalted and well rewarded for thy great labour and paine. When Rush had tolde his tale: the great maister Deuill commanded euery Deuill to goe his way and doe the best he could, and thus they departed: fome went one way and fome another: and thus they were fcattered abroad in the world, to finish and make an end of their enterprises that they had taken in hand. And when the poore husbandman which fate in the Tree, fawe that all the Deuils were departed and gone: he reioyced in his heart and was right glad thereof, for as long as they were there, hee was euer in great feare and dread, and hee was afraid that they should have feene him there, and euer he prayed vnto almighty God to be his guard, and faue him from that foule and euill fauoured company of Deuils, and to fend him the light of the day that he were gone out of that place, for hee was weary that hee aboade there so long, and oftentimes he looked vp, to fee if hee could perceive any light of the day whereby he might fee to depart thence, for till then he durst not once stirre out of that place, for he feared that they had beene there still. Then within a while

a while after, the day began to appeare, and when hee perceiued that: anon he started vp and looked round about him abroade in the fields, and when he perceiued that there was nobody stirring he thanked almighty God, that he was so preserved out of that great ieopardy, and so departed.

How the Farmer which lay in the Tree, came vnto the Priour on the morowe after, and tolde him the wordes that hee had heard, and the words of Frier Rush, and that he was a very Deuill.

A S foone as the day began to apeare: the poore Farmer arose out of the Tree, and tooke his way streight to the Priour, and he would never rest till he had fpoken with him; and when he was come to his fpeech, anon he faide: Sir, this night hath fortuned to me a great aduenture: how so faide the Priour? fir, yesternight late in the evening, I walked foorth in the fieldes to feeke a Cowe which I have missed this foure or fiue dayes, and fo long I wandered abroad, till at the last I founde the one halfe of my Cowe, but the other halfe was gone; and as I woulde have returned home againe, I was benighted, fo fore that I lost my waye: then I wist not whether to goe, but spying a hollowe Tree, I fate me downe, thinking there to take my rest till the day appered againe: and I had not fitten there but a while, but instantly there was assembled a great company of Deuills which made a maruailous great noife, whereof I was fore afrayd. They had among them a great master named Lucifer, who called all the rest to make a reckoning of all their service they had done, fince they departed out of Hell: there I heard many many marueilous tales. At the last, foorth came Frier Rush, then saide the great master Lucifer vnto him, Rush, what hast thou done since thou departed out of Hell? and he answered, that he had ruled you, and all your Couent, and caused you, to chide and fight, and were neuer in vnitie and peace among your felues: and he faid he had caused you to liue viciously, and yet he saide he would doe more ere he departed out of this place, for he will cause you to kill each other, and then you should be damned in Hell, both bodie and soule. fo euerie Deuill departed and went about their busines. Wherefore take heede, for he is a verie Deuill. when the Priour had heard the wordes of the Farmer, he thanked him for his labor and fo they departed, the Farmer went home to his house, but the Priour was marueilously abashed at the words of the Farmer, and went into his chamber and was much grieued in his harte that he had so leudly misordered himselfe against his Lord God, and with great contrition he kneeled downe vpon his knees, and asked almighty God mercie, and forgiuenes for the great and greeuous offences that he had committed and done against him, and that he had so vildly misused the order of his Religion. And when he had thus done, he departed out of his chamber and went into the Cloister, and caused all his bretheren to come together, and when they were all affembled, the Priour told them euerie worde as the husbandman had told him, and that Rush was a verie Deuill, and no earthly creature; at the which they were fore astonished, and were right forry in their hartes, that they had followed him so much in his minde, and done after his counsaile, and were heavy in their heartes for their great and abhominable finnes that they had committed and done, & with great contrition they kneeled downe vpon

their knees, and defired almighty God, for grace and pardon. Then the Priour caused euery man to fall to contemplation and praier. Then foorth they went and did the Priours commaundement, and briefely made them ready, and went to prayer all at once. And when they were come to the middest of their service, the Priour departed out of the Church and went to the Kitchin, wherin he found Rush who was there verie busy: then the priour commaunded him to stand still, and by vertue of almightie God and of all the companie of Heauen, he conjured Rush into the likenes of a Horse, and commaunded him to goe and stand at the gate in the same place that he stood in when he came thether first, and to stand there till service was done: so foorth went Rush in the likenes of a Horse, and stood at the gate as the Priour had commaunded him. And when feruice was done, the Priour and his brethren went to the gate to fee what case Rush was in: and when they were come thether they found him standing in the likenes of a Horse. Then they demaunded him to what entent he came into their place, and why he taried there so long? Syrs said Ru/h: I came hither to cause you to do all mischife as is aforesaid, and yet I would haue done more ere I had gone hence: for I would haue caused you to flave other, and to be damned both bodie and foule. And when they had heard the words of Rush, euery man held vp his hands and thanked almighty God, that they had so well escaped that great misfortune. Then Rush defired the Priour licence to depart thence, and promifed that he would neuer more come there, nor doe any man more hurt: vpon that condition the Priour gaue him leave to depart. Thus Rush departed from the place, and the Friers went to their \mathbf{E}

Cloyster, and liued there folitarie and chast euer after, and served almightie God better than euer they did before.

The Lamentation that Rush made when hee was departed out of the house of Religion.

When Rush was banished out of the house of Religion, and was turned into the same likenesse that he was, then he wandred abroad in the worlde with an heauie heart, & these words he said: Alas, alas, what shall I doe, I wote not now whether to goe, for all my feuen yeres labour is lost. And as he wandred about, by fortune he met with his master Lucifer, but he would not haue feene him by his will: neuertheles his maister espied him quickly, and faid to him Rush what tydings with thee? Sir faid Rush, I have lost all my labour that I haue gone about this vii. years. How so, saide his Maister? Sir, I shall shew you said Rush. The last time that we were assembled together, there was a poore man lay in an old tree hard beside vs, & he heard all that we faid: and when we were departed, he arose and went vnto the Priour and shewed him all that we saide. and specially the wordes that I had spoken, and so all my labour is lost, & am banished that place. Well, faid the master Divell to Rush, thou shalt goe some other way abrode, and looke if thou canst finde any thing to doe: Then Rush walked about in the country, & long it was ere he could get any feruice: At last he fortuned to come vnto a husbandmans house which lacked a feruant, where he was entertained, but fore against the wifes consent. For this husbandmans wife

was a very faire woman, and she loued well the parish Priest, and he loved her againe, in so much that often times they made good cheere and banketted together, and so continued and kept company together a long time. Their meeting was so privile and so secrete, that it was neuer knowen, and they fure enough of the good man, for he was accustomed euerie morning to rise early and to goe farre into the field, and because his wife would preuent his comming home to dinner, she would alwaies giue him his victailes in a bagg with him, and a bottell full of drinke, to the intent he should tarie in the feeldes from morning to night: she would not suffer him to keepe a feruant or to haue any manner of helpe: for she was afraide that if they should have a servant, her fecretes should be knowen, and the goodman also feared that if he should take a seruant, that he would have but little lust to tarrie there: for the Deuill himfelfe could not endure the chiding and brawling of that woman: by which meanes she kept her husband without a feruant a long time: For shee knew well, that as long as her husband was in the feeld, the Priest and she might have their meeting, but at length shee was deceiued.

How Rush came to a Husbandman (labouring in the Field) and defired to bee entertained into his feruice.

R Ush trauailing vp and down, came to a Husbandman who was labouring in the field, being all alone, and spake these wordes vnto him: Rest you merie sir, me thinks you take great paines to worke so fore your selfe: will it please you to entertaine a servant? I.

am a poore young man & am out of feruice, and I am very willing to serue you if you please: and I trust to doe you such seruice, as shall be to your good content; The husbandman answered him, and saide; young man, I would gladly give you entertainement, but my wife will neuer be pleased with any servant that shall come into my house: Sir said Rush let me alone, for I shall so worke the matter, that my dame shall be well pleased with me: well faid the husbandman, tarry with me till I have done my busines, and thou shalt goe home with me: when he had finished his dayes worke, Rush went home with him, they were no fooner come into the house, but the wife espying Rush, she began to gloome and to looke meruailous angerly at him: which the good man perceiuing, he faide unto her, dame, I pray thee to be contented, thou knowest well inough that I have more labour to doe, then I am able to make an end of alone, and therefore I have hyred this young man to help me: when his wife heard those wordes, she was more angry then before, and began to braule and scolde as if the Deuill had bene in her, and said vnto him: what a vengance needest thou to take a seruant? thou art able inough thy felfe to doe all the busines that we have to doe, and why should we take more charge vpon vs then we are able to beare? but I now perceive thou art given to lazines, and hast little minde to work thy felfe: when the good man heard her fo highly difpleased, he said, dame, I pray thee be contented, the young man is honest, and he hath promised me to be a good feruant: yet for all these speeches she would not be pacifyed, but brawled still: when Rush perceived her great impaciencie, he faid vnto her: dame I pray you be contented, and be not angry with me, for you shall have no cause, my Master hath hyred me but for a while, vpon

vpon a tryall, and I trust, in that time, so to behave my felfe, as to give you both content: and when my time commeth out, if you like my Seruice you shall haue it before any other whatsoeuer: if not, I will be very well content to depart. When the wife heard Rush speake so resonably, she pacifyed her selfe, and said no more: which caused the good man to be very glad, and so she fet them to supper, and as they sate at meate, Rush demanded of his Master what he should doe the next day? his Master answered, thou must rife early and goe to the field, and make an end of that which I was about. this day; (which was a great dayes worke) fo when they had fupt they went to bed. Early in the morning. Rush arose and went to the field, and wrought so lustily, that he had done his worke betimes: for when his Master came to bring him his Breakfast, all his worke was finished, whereat his Master had great maruaile: then they sate downe to breakfast, which being ended they went home, and did such thinges as were there to bee done: when his Dame fawe that he had so soone ended his busines, she thought that he was a profitable. feruant, and faid little but let him alone. In the Euening Rush demaunded of his Master what hee should doe the next morrow? his Master appointed him twice so much as hee did the day before, which Rush refused not, but got vp earely in the morning, and went to the Field, and about his worke; fo foone as his Master was ready, he tooke his mans breakfast and came to the field, thinking to helpe Rush: (but he was no sooner come from his house, but the Priest came to see his wife, and presently shee made ready some good meate for them to be merry withall, and whyle it was a dreffing, they fate sporting together, who had beene there should haue feene many louing touches.) And when the goodman

came to the Field, he found that Rush had done all that which he appointed, whereof he had great maruaile: then they fate downe to breakfast, and as they sate together, Rush beheld his Masters shoone, and perceived that for fault of greafing they were very hard: Then faid Rush to his Master, why are not your shooes better greased, I maruaile that you can goe in them, they be so hard? Haue you no more at home? Yes, said his Master, I haue another payre lying vnder a great Chest at home in my chamber: Then faid Rush, I will goe home and greafe them that you may put them on to morrow: and fo he walked homeward merrily and fung by the way. And when he approached neare the house, he fang out very loude: with that his Dame looked out at the window, and perceived that it was her feruant, Shee faid vnto the Priest: alas, what shall we doe? our feruant is come home, and my Husband will not be long after, and with that she thrust the meate into the Ouen, and all that was vpon the Table. Where shall I hyde me faid the Priest? Goe into the chamber, and creepe vnder the great Chest among the olde shoone, and I shall couer you, and so he did: And when Rush was come into the house, his Dame asked him, why he came home so soone? Rush answered and said: I have done all my busines, and my Master commaunded me to come home and grease his shoone. Then he went into the Chamber and looked vnder the Chest, and there hee found the Priest, and he tooke him by the heeles and drew him out, and faid, thou whorefon Priest, what doost thou heere? With that, the Priest held vp his hands and cryed him mercy, and defired him to faue his honesty, and hee would neuer more come there: And so Rush let him goe for that once.

How Rush came home to make cleane the Stable, and how hee found the Priest vnder the Maunger couered with Straw.

WIthin a while after this foresaid Priest began to wax warme, and thought once againe to aduenture himselfe and goe to the Husbandmans house: When he perceived that the Goodman and Rush his? Seruant was in the field a labouring, hee went with all fpeed to the house, and when he was entered, the Wife faid he was welcome, and made ready a good dish of meate and fet it on the Table before the Priest, then shee drew drinke and fate downe beside him: who had beene there should have seene many wanton toyes between them two, and they had not fitten there long, but anon Rush came finging homeward, and when she espyed him, the was abashed and wist not what to doe but thrust the meate into the Ouen as she did before. Then said the Priest where shall I hyde me? come with me, said the wife, into the Stable, and creepe vnder the Maunger, and I shall couer you with straw, and tary there till he be gone againe, and then she turned againe into the house where she found Rush her Seruant, and anon she demaunded of him why he came home so soone? Rush answered, that he had done all his busines, and he was come to make cleane the Stable, and when the Wife heard that, shee was forry in her heart, for she doubted that he would finde the Priest againe. Then foorth went Rush into the stable and tooke a great forke in his hand and began to shake vp the Straw: and when he came to the heape that the Priest lay in, the which feemed to him very great, yet neuerthelesse with his forke he took all vp at once and bare it out of the doore,

doore, and laide it on a great heape of mucke that lay there, and with his forke he shaked the straw abroad, and when hee had shaken out a little, anon he was aware of the Priests Gowne: then hee said, what a Deuill art thou? and with his forke he turned the heape, and then hee perceived that the Priest was come againe: then with his forke he gaue him three or foure good dry stripes and faid, whoreson Priest, what dost thou heere? thou promised me the last day neuer more to come heere, and now I fee thou art a false Priest, but now I shall make an end of thee, and then shalt thou never deceive me more. And when the Priest heard him say so, he fell vpon his knees and held vp his hands, and prayed Rush to faue his honor once againe and he would never come there more, and if he did then to doe with him what he would.

Thus Rush let the Priest goe the second time.

How Rush came home and found the Priest in the Cheese-basket, and how hee trayled him about the Towne.

Then within a fortnight or three weekes after, the Priest thought he was long absent from the Husbandmans wife. And though it should cost him his life, yet would he goe thither once againe: And on a day he perceiuing the goodman was gone to the Field, he tooke his waye vnto the house, and was so hasty, that assone as he was entred into the house, hee caught the wife and would haue imbraced her, but shee quickly got from him againe, and went and prepared good cheare for him, as she was wont to doe: for they thought themselues sure enough for the time, but yet

they were deceived: For when the goodman was come to the Field, Rush had done all his busines, then they fate downe, and brake their fast with Bread and Cheese: and as they fate eating, Rush spyed a havre in the Cheefe, and then he faid to his Master, I trow my Dame would poylon vs, or else she washeth not the Basket that the Cheese lyeth in, behold it is all full of haires, I will goe home and wash the basket and make it cleane: fo leaving his Master in the field and walking homeward, he fung merrily all the way. And when he approached neare the house, the Wife knew his voyce and perceived that he was comming. Then wringing her hands she said vnto the Priest, goe hyde you, or else you be but dead. Where shall I hyde me said the Priest? Goe vp into the chamber and leape iuto the basket that hangeth out at the window, and I shall call you when he is gone againe. Then anon in came Ru/h and the asked him why he came home so soone? then said $Ru\beta$, I have done all my busines in the field, and my Master hath fent me home to wash your Cheese-basket, for it is full of haires, and fo he went into the Chamber, and with his knife he cut the rope that the basket hung by, and downe fell Priest and all into a great poole of water that was vnder the window: then went he into the stable for a Horse and rode into the poole, and tooke the rope that hung at the basket, & tying it to the horses tayle, rode through the poole three or 4 times. Then he rode through the Towne to cause the people to wonder at him, and so came home againe. And all this while he made as though he had knowne nothing, but looking behinde him, espyed the Priest. Then he alighted downe, and faid vnto him: Thou shalt neuer more escape me, thy life is lost. With that, the Priest held vp his hands and said, heere is a hundred

peeces of gold, take them and let me goe. So Rush tooke the golde and let the Priest goe. And when his Master came home, he gaue him the halfe of his money, and bad him farwell, for he would goe see the world.

How Rush became Seruant to a Gentleman, and how the Deuill was Coniured out of the body of the Gentlemans Daughter.

When Rush was departed from the Husbandman, he went abroad in the Countrey, to looke if he could find any more aduentures: and fo long he trauailed about, that at last he espyed a Gentlemans place, vnto the which he tooke his way. And when he was come thither, as chance was, he found the gentleman walking vp and down before his gate. And when Rush was approached neare vnto him, he put off his bonet and faluted him faying: Rest you merry good gentleman: Welcome faid he: Sir, faid Rush, I am a poore young man and am out of seruice, and saine would I have a good Master. What Countryman art thou said the Gentleman & from whence commest thou? Sir, said Rush, I was borne farre hence and many a myle haue I gone to feeke a good feruice, but none can I find. What canst thou doe said the gentleman, and what is thy name? Sir said Rush, I can doe any manner of thing that shall please you to set me vnto, & Rush is my name. Then faid the gentleman vnto him: Rush tarry heere with me, and I will retaine thee into my feruice. When Rush heard the gentleman speake so, hee thanked him much and tarryed there. Then as the Gentleman and Rush went talking together, the gentleman said vnto him: Rush thou hast trauailed farre and gone through many strange Countries: canst thou shew me where to finde

finde any man, can Coniure a spirit out of a womans body? Sir, faid Rush, why aske you me that question? I shall shew thee, said the gentleman, I have a Daughter which is a faire young woman, but she is fore troubled in her minde, and as I suppose shee hath some Diuell within her body. Sir, faid Rush, I pray you let me see her, and I trust speedily to finde remedy for her. Then the gentleman brought Rush into the place and shewed him his Daughter. And when he saw her he knew what she had within her body: Anon he faid vnto the gentleman, fir there is remedy enough for this. Well faid the gentleman, if thou canst finde me any that can helpe her thereof, I will reward him well. for his labour, and thee also. Sir, I will shew you what is to be done, there is a place of Religion a forty or fifty miles hence, wherein I was a feruant a long time, and the Priour is a cunning man in that science: and I doubt not, but if he were heere euen now she should be holpen within this houre. When the gentleman heard the words of Rush, he reioyced in his heart and was full glad of that good tydings. And on the morrow after, the gentleman fent his feruant with his letters vnto that house of Religion, desiring the Priour to come and speake with him. When the Priour had read the gentlemans letters, and knew for what cause he was fent for, he made him ready to ride with the messenger. Then forth they rode, and the next day they arrived at the Gentlemans place. When the gentleman vnderstood that the Priour was come, he was glad and went to the gate, and with great reuerence he received the Priour, and brought him into his place. Then the gentleman commanded his feruant to fill a cup of Wine, that the Priour and he might drinke together. And when they had drunke and refreshed themselues

themselues well, they walked foorth into a faire Garden, and then they commoned together of many things, and when they had finished all their communications, the Gentleman faid vnto the Priour: Sir, the cause that you be come hither is this. It is fo, that I have a young Gentlewoman to my daughter which is grieuously vexed and troubled in her minde, and as I suppose she hath fome wicked Spirit in her body, and fir, it was shewed me by a feruant of mine which was long feruant in your place, that you could helpe her. Sir faid the Priour what is his name? The gentleman faid his name is Rush. And when the Priour heard his name hee knew him well enough, and faid vnto the gentleman, fir, cause the gentlewoman to come before me and I trust in almighty God, shortly to finde a remedy for her, and when the gentleman heard the Priour speake so, he was glad in his heart, and commanded in all hast to bring foorth his Daughter before the Priour: and when she was come into his presence, he commanded her to kneele downe vpon her knees, and also he commanded her Father and her Mother, and all the company that were there prefent, in likewise to kneele vpon their knees, and pray vnto almighty God for the young Gentlewoman. And then he himselfe said certaine prayers ouer her: then he lifted vp his hand and bleffed her, and incontinent there flew a great Deuill out of And the Priour bound the Deuill fo, that her mouth. neuer after he came there. Thus was the young gentlewoman restored to her right minde and health againe. Then the Gentleman would have given to the Priour a great summe of money for his labour, but he would take none, but faid vnto the gentleman: Sir, I haue a new Church in building, and I lacke Lead to couer the roofe: and as it is informed me, this is a plentifull

Countrey thereof. Wherefore fir, if it will please you to give me asmuch as shall serve me: I and my Bretheren shall bee your dayly beadsmen, and you shall be prayed for as long as the world endureth. Yee shall haue as much as shall serue you, said the gentleman: But how will you doe for the carriage? Well inough faid the Priour. Then the gentleman brought him to a great heape of Lead, and bad him take asmuch as would serue him. Prefently the Priour called foorth Rush and commanded him to take on his necke fo much Lead as would couer his Church, and beare it home, and come againe quickly. So Rush tooke the lead on his necke at once and carryed it home, and he was there againe within halfe an houre. Then the Priour tooke his leaue of the Gentleman and departed, commaunding Rush to bring him home also. Then Rush tooke him on his necke, and within one quarter of an houre he was at home. Then the Priour conjured Rush againe into his owne likenesse, and commaunded him to goe into an olde

Castle that stood farre within the Forrest, and neuer more to come out, but to remaine there for euer. From which Deuill and all other Deuils, defend vs good Lord.

Amen.

FINIS.

as approx

THE

Italian Taylor,

and his Boy.



Ву

ROBERT ARMIN, Servant to the Kings most excellent Maiestie.

Res est solliciti plena timoris amor.

At London printed for T. P ..

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1810.



TO THE TRVE NO-BLE AND RIGHT HO-NORABLE THE LORD VICOVNT HADDINTON:

And,

The Noble by birth, and vertuous by education, his fecond felfe, the Lady ELIZABETH FITSWATER, his Vicountesse and Wife:

ROBERT ARMIN Wisheth content in this life, and ioy in the life to come.

Ight Honourable, a late Lord of England, being presented with a Poeme of some young Writer: seeing his boldnesse, and having graveld him in question, sound that his Will was worthier then the Worke, yet contrarie aunswerd his amated feare, thus: Fooles makes Bookes for Wise men to laugh at. I have knowne some, that have loved the Writer for the Worke, how ever weake; the Will pleaded so powerfull; and the partie presenting it, had (at the least) thankes for his labour. I read that a poore man meeting Artaxerxes, having nothing to give

THE EPISTLE.

him as a guift gratulatorie, did present him with a handfull of Water: the right true bred King, seeing his loue, caused the Water to be put into a Cup of Gold, and returnes it the partie, with kingly thankes, and loue. There is (right Noble) as much difference in the rewardes, as in the birthes: the first, Noble and vnkind: the last, maiesticall, and well inclinde.

Ispeake not this (right Honourable) to gloze, or rather waft a farre off a neere-come bountie, but to shew the pith of the one, & the power of the other. To your Honour I plead neither, because I feare not the first, nor wish I the last: onely your spirit of loue towards me, which I am perswaded I am possest off; I do desire it in continuance: yet if you doe returne the first, it may be fitting; for the Poeme procures it, and I wish it so; that I (being as your Honour knows) make this Booke for your Wisedome to laugh at; and I wish it the very tickling of delight: how euer it is, a well compounded iest, and your Italians are in this (as in all) neate: If my weake translation darken it, I beseech the funshine of your Honour to inlighten it, that it may out-value worth it felfe in your estimation, being (as you are) the bleffed hand for Brittaine, ordained in your cradle, (vnder God) to preserue the life of our royall King IAMES, then in danger of the diuelish minded Gowery.

Likewise

THE EPISTLE.

Likewise most affable Lady, kinde and debonere, the second of the first which I sawcily salute, pardon I pray you the boldnes of a Begger, who hath been writ downe for an Asse in his time, & pleades vnder forma pauperis in it still, not-withstanding his Constableship and Office: I doe intreat your Ladiship, (being of a Noble straine) gratiously to regard this poore Petite of transformation: laugh at them (if you can) hartily, and I have my wish: if not returne them wittie; for so much the Italian Poet merits at the least: for mee, I but light a Taper at his Torch, & I wish the flame may neither putrifie the fense, nor infect the imagination. There are rough Stones heawed out from the Quary; and the lines leueld by which they are fquarde: If they appeare crooked to straight iudgment, I befeech you, call to question my Weaknes; and my Will, will answere in my behalf.

There is shrowded (Madame) vnder the glister of your Starre, a Poeticall light, which shines not in the world as it is wisht, but yet the worth of it luster is knowne: he hath remayned in Suffex many yeares; and I befeech God, and your noble Father (the Earle) he may liue and die beloued fo still. It is, (if I speake darkely) that pen-pleading Poet (graue for yeares and knowledge) Maister Mathere Roiden I doe stand to his censure.

THE EPISTLE

censure, to second yours both; and I doubt not but he will plead for my weaknes in this worke, knowing that, Non cuiuis homini contingit adire Corinthum? And so wishing as much ioy to your right well affected Vicount and you, from the King of heauen, as I know you are possess off from the King of earth: I leave your Honours both, to him that is, and ever shalbe yours, and our redeemer.

Your Honours in all humblenes

ROBERT ARMIN.

Prologue to the Storie.

VID and Virgill for the Pen, And Homer for his Verse: Plautus, Horace; worthy men, Left lines for Schooles to perfe: Since then, Italia in her pride, Puft, some of memorie, Who have deferred the Wreath beside. Of fames eternitie. But giue me leaue to reckon why They did fet downe their skill In Embleme Stories, faignedly, And yet not blabs of ill: But to infift on meaner toyes Wherein they might be bold Leauing to truce our better ioyes In Scripture lines inrold, For Schollerisme and Schoole defence, To practife younger wits, That they prefumd in, to dispence On things that better fits:

The Prologve

Now not to niggard it at all, But ioyne as partner yit With fuch as do our Poet call, Mecanas for his wit: I thus distribute to all eyes, What I of late haue red: Though faigned, yet they are no lyes, But fancies better bred: And yet the subject of discent, As many Worthies bee: Begun of nothing, till content Breed to maturitie. The Italian Poet in discourse, Sets downe a homely toy, In fingular donne, prose not verse, A Taylor and his Boy: Who in contention, shewde the earth, What Art exceeded in: For nothing but an howers mirth, And thus doth he begin.

The Italian Taylor and his Boy.



Argument

The Italian Taylor and his Boy, Contend in trans-formation.
To ouer-cloud each others ioy, In art and occupation.
The childish breed doth build on Pines, While loftic Cedars stand, More subject vnto meane dessignes, Then they to great commaund; And simple Honestie at last is seene, To ioyne in mariage with a Queene.

CANT. I.

His Taylor tooke vnto his trade,
A neighbours child, but poore;
The Boy was yong, yet wits perswade
His yeares were many more:
B 2.

How

The Italian Taylor

How euer, hee's reported young, Though old in apprehention; Whereby this canker Enuie, sproung, And caufd this blacke diffention. The Maister was oreshot i'th marke. At which he gaue the ayme, The Boy exceedes the parish Clarke, And got his Maisters fame: In time, the Maister wrought no more, Nor reason wil'd him vse it, Since whom he taught, increast his store, Why might not he refuse it? But practized from Pithagoras, Schoole poynts of transformation, By Art he wonne, and brought to passe, The forme of any fashion: Sometimes he would flie like a Bird, Anone a Horse, a Tree: And by and by in thought or word, A Fowle, a Fish, a Bee. The litle Lad, which had an eye On all his Maister did, Grew wearie of his trade, whereby His better judgment chid, And bid him boldly looke about, His Maister had in stoore, A rarer fecret of much doubt, His present skill was poore: Once aboue all, ascends the Staires, And through the key-hole peepes, To note his Maisters new affaires, And what strange coyle he keepes:

and his Boy

Who busie in transforming life, To fundry shapes of toyes: In his beholding, grew a strife, Of dread and hidden ioyes. Now he beholdes his Master chang'd And like a Tree appeares: At last a Horse an Ape estrangde, In feuerall shapes and feares: These transiue apparitions dealt, As mad-men in their fits; Who compasse all they toucht or fealt, When th' are but withing wits: He downe descendes, and watches time To try this wished skill. He found the steps that he did clime, Were farthring to his will. So while his Maister by him selfe Did practife thus to bee, This busie Ape and willing elfe, As expert was as hee. The Lad deuises now to make His Father rich and great; Comes and demaunds if for needs fake, He should vrge Artes conceit To do him grace? " I, (faies the old man) " My pouertie is fuch; " I pre-thee child, do what thou can

" Nor may it be too much:

" Considring I did bring thee vp " In knowledge, care, and loue,

" And let thee drinke of plenties cup;

В3

" A Fathers best behoue.

The

The Italian Taylor

The obedient Boy desirous too, To shew his vtmost will, Intreates his Father thus to do. For practife of his skill: To buy i'th morne a Saddle and Bridle, And meet him that felfe morrow, In Caijus field, and if possible, He would rid his forrow: "There shall you finde (fayes he) a Steed, " as white as Snow or Swan: " Possesse him to relieue your need, " And make what price ye can." He thankes his fonne: "I but (quoth he) " What fequel lags behind? " Nought else but this; when you shall see " The bargaine full affignd, "Vnfaddle me, and leaue me fold; " But see the same be done, " Least after forrow grow too bold, " On what is thus begunne." They parted faire, the Old man home, The Boy vnto his traide, The dayes end neere, the night is come, And all things well appaide: The Taylor now bethinking him, Of fortunes past and gone; His Seruants necligence, lookt grim, That all decayde at home: Rifes to 's Booke, and by his art, He well perceives and findes His Boyes attempt, his skill to thwart, Possest him twentie mindes.

What

and his Boy

"What will this Youngster rise vnto,
"If thus he climbe (sayes hee)
"To'th top of all my practize? no,
"It may nor must not bee,"
Sees, he was altred in his shape,
And to a goodly Steed;
Deuises now to catch the Ape,
In practise of this deed;
Doth rise betime, and sutes his backe,
Like one that t[r]affickt much:
And to the market all in blacke,
As Marchants, like one such.

The Italian Taylor



Argument

Enuie in her Sables drest
Adornd like one of ire:
Thus shapt, is euer ready prest,
To finish blacke desire:
But see the chaunce, and what proceedes
On such disastrous diuelish deedes.

CANT. 2

Omes, where the old man pacde his steede,
There people wondred oft,
To see this lade of such a breede,
Curuet, praunce, leape alost.
He cals to know the lowest price:
It was siue hundred Francks.
Too deare sayes he, the old man wise,
Sayd so it should, and thanks:



Ad lectorem hic et vbiq;

S P D.

Nuifible Reader, I present thee with a Poeme from the Italians; bid it welcome for the Countries sike, for I assure thee, the excellencie of that nation in Poesie, is beyond my Pen to publish: but be it as it is worthy, onely I wander with it now in a strange time of taxation, wherein every Pen & inck-horne Boy will throw up his Cap at the hornes of the Moone in censure, although his wit hang there, not returning vnlesse monthly in the wane: such is our ticklish age, & the itching braine of aboudance, But Ispeake to thee more mildly: I have to the pleasure, & my no great profite, written this Pamphlet, onely my adventure in presuming into the hands of so Noble a Patron, I feare (in part) wil offend; but my good will considered, will plead my excuse. I put into thy view a conceit to nod at, as who should say; Is it so? is it so, & no better? will this meere foole, little learning, be so bould? why the wisest can doe no more? Well, to answere for the follie, I say Boltes are shot of the vnskilfull, as well as the archer; and they now and then hit. Not long since I discovered a nest of Ninnies in this great wombe the Worlde and some of the old brood before, Scorned A 4

To the Reader.

fornd at this new birth: it was but to shew their antiquitie, and who was the neatest Ninnie of all the nest; one for sooth would kill the Author; and why? because of the Dedication. Why did not a Crow speake (aue) to Caesar? May not a Foole cry (bo) to a Goose, or the contrarie? Will not a Iade wring i'th withers, being hardly sadled? Goe too then, it is lawfull to plead pouertie with the Penne, and pittie to 'th Purse. I say no more, but commit thee to this; in which thou shalt laugh, if thou wilt: if not, choose. For my part, I doe not as some doe, rayle against Law, taxe the Cittie, and censure Players, when they them-selues are insensible, but sinde mee better busied; oncly I say this: when the Taylor wants bumbast, he will make Ragges stuffe out: and so with him that lines his Leaues with rayling rethoricke; which no doubt, will one day be answeard and anatomisse: i'th meane time, bid this welcome for his sake to whom it is dedicated: which we may all reioyce in, if his happie hand be duly considered.

Fare-weil.

and his Boy.

As chapmen in their bargaines sticke To rife and fall, so hee Offerd and went, comes backe as quicke; At last they did agree: and stood of meridians to do a The money tenderd, vp he gets, which they make the To try the paced Steed; Mailter will win a stink Who vp o'th fodaine, hence he iets, In pace of posting speed: Thus galloping, the old man fithes, " My faddle's on (fayes hee) " I am vndone, ore-gone vniths, " Som epower preseruer bee." Home comes my Taylor to his Stable, Who to 'th Manger tyes This Horse with Ropes, while he was able Beats his backe and thighes. "Thou art my servant now (sayes hee) " To ride, to run, and go; " And I will vie thee cruelly: " Had I before done fo, " I had not thus bin backt and rid, " By him Ile ouer ride." The Boy thus heard how he was chid, Thus to himselfe he cride, " Forgetfull Father, I am wrong'd, "Thy necligence is cause; " Now shall my torment be prolong'd, " And here my shape must pause, " Vnlesse some one vngirt my backe, " This shape will euer bee: "Thus my confused shame and wracke, " Is (Father) come by thee."

Ñor

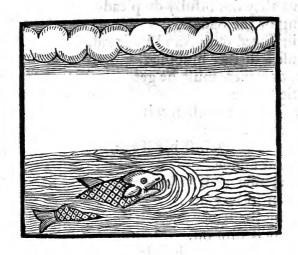
The Italian Taylor,

Nor Hay or Prouender was given, Nor Water for to drinke: Thus Pin'd, with Want, all was vneuen, The Boy transform'd, doth thinke: A lib route of Art out went Art in what was done, His Maisters skill was stronger; boots forces and was And he by learning ouercome, Was now approou'd the younger. The Taylor had two tender Babes, A little Sonne and Daughter; Who often saw their Father's rage, And what would happen after: Confider'd in their infant thoughts, Vnles the Horse had food, The stately Steede would come to nought; And that were not fo good. One after noone came there to play, At last they thus bethought 'om The Horse was dry, and knew the way To 'th water; where they brought 'om: The lade shoke often, by the mane, His Girts ganne to vnlose; The Saddle that did fall off cleane, As he to'th Riuer goes: The litle one stayes there to keepe it, While the other leades The Steed to 'th water; doth beweepe it, And it euer dreades, show him spadt misses but " It will be loft, alas (fayes he) who are the "Then are we both vndone: Then are we both vndone: " Our Father missing it, will be to a con-"In anger ouercome,"

and his Boy.

While thus they doubtfully do plead The falling of the Saddle, The fubtile Steed doth stand in dread, T' wil cause a further brabble: And now, or neuer, must he get His libertie to goe, Either by force, by present wit, Or liue in endles woe: He rubs his head against his legge, And euer and anone, Whinnies aloude, as if he begges The children to be gone: But being by the River side, The Bridle new flipt off; Like to a little Fishe, doth slide Into the Streame, and laugh To fee the young-ones cry aloude; And what a mone they make For him, who now was nothing proude This shape to vndertake.

The Italian Taylor



Argument.

Tis euer so, that subtilitie
Doth triumph ouer such
Whose infant young simplicitie,
Bewayles the action much:
But where intended honestie,
Doth worke for his auaile,
Let wisedome wish indisferently,
It may have present baile:
As in this shape it now appeares,
To scape the Taylors two-edge sheares.

CANT, 3.

He affrighted young ones all amaz'd, Returning from the Brookes, At whom the angrie Father gaz'd, Saw wonders in their lookes:

Doth

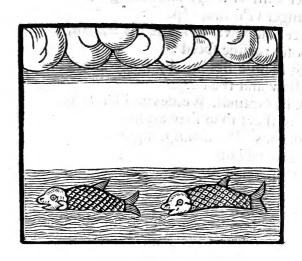
and his Boy

Doth Question what the matter is, They lookt all fadly fo: They fearefull too, that did amisse, Were loth that he should know: But when there was no remeadie, They tell their Father this, How that his Horse was sodainely Transform'd into a Fish. Hee all inraged, gets him home, And when he faw twas true, His Mans disguise to recompence, He bids him-felfe adue, And turnes into a greater Fish, The leffer to deuower, Because he knew no way but this, Was in his furies power: Thus shapt, he springs into the Streame, Where his reuenge did fwim. Now is he in an other Realme, Which was vnknowne to him: Anone he comes amongst the shoales, Where filuer finned Fishes Kept their bright meeting in the goales, Of Neptune's watry wishes. But missing him whom he defir'd He glotes as lightning glides; Searching the deepes, he foone afpir'd Where golden Tagus bides, Where Triton with his Trumpet blast, And Argus eyes kept way, While plentie ballast from it fast, What flotes the Indian Sea. C 3.

Heere

The Italian Taylor

Heere was the fubtile Taylor Fish Suspected for a thiefe: And driven from doing ought amisse By power from the chiefe: Nor there, nor any where he findes His new transformed youth; Of Fish or Man, of neither kindes, Though both of him infuth, At length vnlookt for, while he stayes, Playing i'th Flood at 's ease, On's bellie, back, fides, fundry wayes, As his content shall please: He spies a stranger-Fish passe by; At whom, fmall Fishes throng, As if they knew by nature, why He had difguif'd fo long.



Argument.

Heere may you note in anger, What toyles and labours bee, And though the old be stronger, Yet often times we see The younger wins the glorie, As you shall finde writ in the storie.

CANT 4.

Hus eager in pursuite they glide,
The servant Fish perceaues
It was his Maisters subtile pride,
Springs through the weed-growne leaves:

The

The Italian Taylor

The elder Fish vs'd age and strength, The younger vf'd more speed: Yet scarce had power to keepe his length, In his poste passiue speed: Through sheluie Brooks (by sedgy bancks The shallow and the deepe) In Mud, in Grauell, Weedes and Crancks. Now fwim they, then they creepe. The beautious Ala, labins daughter, King of sea and land, Sends out her hand-mayd foone hereafter. To the falt fea fand, To gather Pibbles for her Bow, To shoote at flying Birds: Shee stoopes and fets her Basket low, Vfing these angrie wordes. " Must I be made a gleaner now, " To geather killing Stones, " For harmeles chirpers, that each bough, "Beares freely for the nones?" While thus she grudg'd her taking toyle, And looking on the Sea, She might behold this heavie coyle, As Fishes when they play; And in the Sommer leape aloft, In the beholders eye; And fodainely fall downeward foft, I'th water where they lie. Euen so these twaine, wearie with flight, Make stand; as in the fielde Two Armies meete, to try the right, And make the other yeelde.

Sometimes

and his Boy

Sometimes the hush was in the water Like a hollow Grone, And instantly proceeded after Quiet, as if none Disturb'd the Flood: but when her eye Had pierct the meaning truely, More wondring stood she, and thereby She did observe them duely. When Enuie boldly shewde it selfe In Fish, so well as Men; To which, she standing on the shelfe, Made this reply agen. " Poore fooles, how is't they wrangle fo, " Either in braule or sport? "T'is prettie, how so euer (I trow) " And fitting my report." But while amazde she them beheld The fmaller Fash grew weake, Could not contend, but needs must yeeld: And therefore thus doth speake. " O modest Mayde receiue me yet, " And faue me from my foe:" O'th fodaine in her Basket leapt, A prettie Fish in shoe: But while a nazde she lookt thereon, As musing at this thing, The Fish she did behold, was gon Into a Rubie Ring, Vnseene of her, amongst the Stones She geatherd on the fand, Which she choos'd out there for the nonce By labour with her hand.

The Italian Taylor



Argument

This Rubie conqueres where it lights,
None but a Princeffe hand,
Can part the couple that fo fights.
On water and on land:
Which fight, makes plaine, as you may reed,
A Beggers braule, a Princes deed.

CANT. 5.

He prettie gatherer home returnes, And gives the Princesse theese: (I meane the Pibbles) and she mournes, Her labour thus to leese:

Tyerde

Tyerde and wearie with the toyle, And in a prettie lest, Defires the Princesse vse lesse coyle, When she would have the rest: And therewithall, vnfouldes the fight Betwixt the angrie Fishes, Which made the Princesse to delight, That she in person wishes Sh'ad bin pertaker of the warre: So prettily maintainde, The iourney had not bin too farre, As the to her complainde: But when her Mayde reported to her Of the Fishes scape The storie more and more did wooe her, She reioyst the shape. That she o'th sodaine did enjoy, In presence of the Fish: All this the Ring transformed Boy Had, as his heart did wish; And in his foyle fo louely fet, Faire collited in Gold, He shinde amongst the Pibbles wet, Most louely to behold: So beautifull and fanguine red, The price no value had; Which when she saw, she quickly said Her hopes were ritchly alleid: Vpon her pretious joynt tis put, Whose beautie did contend, Whether the Ring, or Finger to't, Were louelest to commend.

But

But while this maze of doubt drue on, Her ouer weening pride Was daunted; for report anon Came to her, and that cride, Her Fathers Feauer was extreame, His Phisicke did no good: T'was killing newes to all the Realme, Vntimely vnderstood, In forrow when the filent night, Did fummon her to bed; Not fleepe, but flumber well she might For to her fadnes faid: In mid'st of which, she thought she saw A naked man lie neare, Imbracing her: who cryed law, " Faire Princesse neuer feare; " I am the Rubie on your hand, " Transformed as you fee; " In other shape at your commaund, " Your vassaile slaue to bee." This certaine apparision seene, Whereto she thus replies: Twixt fleepe and wake: " I am a Queene, " And of no common price: " Tis treason if thou touch me yit; " And therefore be not bold " Vnles our births do princely fit: "But if my Ring of Gold, " Touch then, and spare not; do thy best " To please me in the weare:" " And I am fuch at your request, " (Quoth he) and therefore neare."

He on her Iuorie white of breasts. Prefumes a wanton hand; She puts it by like Musicke rests In skilfull songs commaund. His waggish boldnes cride, all's mine! Her mayden shame bade, fie: His rudenes did a worke in time, And she perceiu'd thereby It was a substaunce, and no thought: She starts vpright i'th bed: " Alas (sayes she) is treason wrought," (And offerd to haue fled) " O feare mee not," Adonis sayes, (For now hee's fuch a one, As scornde the conquest loues the praise Of what his fortune wonne:) " But vnderstand me what I am, " My shape, and comming hither." All told, the sequell sayes, loues shame Deuide all wrong in either: For Honour was his fuertie, He would be chast and true: She did accept fecuritie,

And thus begins anew.
"Ile boast me as no Princesse can,

" Nor yet that euer might;
In naked bed I lay by man,

"Yet honest all the night:

" And thou shalt say as much againe,

"Thy vertue is the greater,

"That mighft, and would not be fo vair?

" Possessing such a creature."

In

In this contemplatorie prate, They past away the night; Where, what to her he did relate, Imagine, judge ye might: The deed of darknesse left vndone, It was their first condition: Then in what errour can they run, Vnles in repetition: For that was free in him and her, Both parties were agreed, In which they ventred on so far, Vow feald their after speed. The morning lealious of the eye, That might behold him there, Giues warning, and he by and by, Her Rubie did appeare, Plac'd on her finger, as before. " O Vesta deare! (sayes she) " I am thy vottery now no more, " This ring hath conquered me." She kist her Finger, welcomde it; Bade farewell vnto man, Since both were Fancies friends to fit Her virgine boldnes than. Her Maydes that lay her chamber by, Begins to chide her forrow, Because that sollitude was nie: Yet bids them kind good morrow. Alas (fayes she) my Fathers griefe, Is cause of all my care; Both you and I shall mourne as chiefe If he die vnaware.

" No (quoth the Virgin) here is newes,

" Will make your sad heart light;

" It makes all modest wonder muse

"That hapt fince yeaster night."

She longes (as women do with child)

To heare that bleffed wonder:

They in their tatling meeke and milde,

Doth trueth and judgment funder:

But when they finde tis all too good,

The offer made to 'th King,

Was true and easly vnderstood,

It did their comfort bring.

"There is (quoth they) a Doctor come,

" Ariu'd but late last night;

" Of whose great skill he yeeldes you some,

" And doth our Countrey right:

" He will attempt what all refuse,

" By Phisicks art to cure

"Your Fathers Feauer: and this newes,

" He doth by life affure:

" Onely his recompence is small;

"Which when his art is doone,

" He will demaunde, and there-with-all,

" This morn he hath begunne:

" And tis not yet two howers ago,

" Since his first Potion tooke;

" Whereby the fit that haunts him fo,

" His vsuall hower forsooke.

This powerfull parlie rouf'd the Deare,
The Larke did early mount:

The Larke did early mount:

It sprung a Partridge; whose vpreare, Was of a great account:

She now desires to see the man,
Whose cunning promised this:
And thus the enuious Taylor can
Be Marchaunt, Doctor, Fish:
For he it was whose strange disguise,
Afforded power of skill,
To cure the King, who bed-red lyes,
And doth obey his will.



Argument

Here comming, doth present his cure,
To accomplish further spight:
And doth vp throw his lostie lure,
Whereon the Hauke should light:
But the Birds eye well sees and knowes
The Partriges from carrion Crowes.

CANT. 6.

He King in comfort of his cure, Begins to bragge his health. The Doctor further doth affure Himselfe of loue and wealth:

E

And all the Countrie in a hope, Their King shall by his art, Enioy a further princely scope, Then health could yet impart: Who but this Doctor, through the land, Was prayed for euery where, Who by his art did ynderstand His Boy difguif'd was there; Intendes to meete him in that shape Who yet thinkes little fo, Vntill report betrayde the scape Of his prefuming foe. Now flumbers on the Princesse finger, As her dearest Iem; While this thrice happy tydings bringer, Thus awakened them. Who comming, while the King in bed Lay wayting life or death: The Ring nought hearing, litle faid, It wanted life and breath, Till it transform'd to man againe, Should heare what came to passe: And as it feem'd, it did remaine A Rubie shining, t'wasse. The amorous Princesse now attired, Comes to the crased King: Whose bleffing when she had defired, She presents her Ring: And with no vulgar complement Diuulg'd, and did extole The beautie, vertue, excellent, With joy and earnest soule.

Much prayses past twixt him and her:

The Doctor standing by,

" Sayd, if I cure your Graces Feauer,

" You can not deny,

" But I shall have what I will aske,

" In guerdion of my skill."

"Tis true, (the King fayes) to this taske,

" I binde my royall Will."

" Why then prepare (the Doctor fayes)

" This Rubie Ring for me;

" I am inamor'd of the prayse,
And mine the same shall be."

" I that, and what elfe (fayes the King)

" My kingdome can afford,

" Is thine, my former health to bring,

" Thereto I passe my word."

" How can it be (the Princesse sayes)

" Our Father will bestow

"What is not his, to length his dayes?

" Although I duetie owe,

" And (as a child) should part with all,

"Your health to re-obtaine;

" It is my life that he doth call,

" To recompence his paine:

"And mine is dearer vnto mee,

"Then yours, or thousands moe.

" What touches life, is still, you see,

" Our owne thus to bestow."

"Then pardon me to keepe my life,

" (I meane this Rubie Ring)

" Vnlesse to him that cals me wife,

" I doe this treasure bring."

E 2

The

The bed-red Prince inrag'd with griefe, Crves, treason to his blood:

" For the (fayth he) that should be chiefe,

" (Obedience vnderstood)

" Is now neglectfull: woe to thee,

"Thou monster in thy birth:

" My Daughter? no, to difagree.

" On matter, though of wirth,

"Yet nothing in respect of vs,

"When life lies at the stake:

" Giue me the Ring thou reekinst thus,

" Bestow it for my sake."

" Nay then your Maiestie doth doate,

" And I (quoth she) will not."

"You of his counfell; pray you noate,

" The Doctor fayes: but that

" Is't possible such petite price,

" Should be of fuch esteeme?

" Why I aduenture on the dice

" Of Fortune, and cast them

" To vtmost heigth of all the chaunce,

" Perhaps my soule is gage,

". Your highnes person to aduance:

" And shall, ill, thus presage.

" Then Knowledge in obliuion turne,

" And Art with Studie end:

" My prayses perish, Bookes shall burne,

" All flacke what I intend:

" If I had askt the Diademe

" To weare it as mine owne; Meil

" Thus Kinglike to commaund the Realme,

" It had not been bestowne,

" Since

- " Since in a toy, a guift fo bace
- " I am so soone neclected:
- " If in a motion of more grace,
- " How had I been respected:
- " I will begone, tis time I trow,
- " Accurst my comming hither.
- " When kindnes imps his wing so low,
- " In fracture of this Feather,"

The Doctor flinges aside in rage:

Whereat the King amazde

Cals him againe: whose fullen age,

When it o'th Princesse gazde,

He darted furie from his eyes,

Which shot the Daughter through:

But when she thought vpon the prize

She reackt no anger now:

- " Shoot on (fayes she) here is my heart,
- " Deare Father, hit it dead;
- " Before from this I euer part,
- " Come mischiese on my head:
- " I'fayth I will not so perswade."

(And offerd to be gone)

- " Stay (fayth the King) thou cruell Mayde,
- "Thou shalt not goe alone,
- " To prison take her, shut her vp
- " From fight of day or funne,
- " Since by her nay, this night I sup
- " With ruine, thus vndone.
- " What hope haue I to haue my cure,
- "When knowledge is rewarded,
- " And hath no vantage to affure
- " On promise so awarded:

" Goe chaine her head vnto her knces,

" There let her pine and die;

" Since their obedience gives to leese,

" What children owe thereby." Shall I haue any in my land;

" Nay of my flesh and blood,

" That will nay dare fo foone withstand

" The motion wee thinke good?

" Why now mee thinkes I am recur'd,

" And lustier then before:

" And shall not such small loue secur'd

" Be graunted much the more?

" I'll giue thee for that petite Ring,

" A million of Treasure:

" Nay, curfed as I am thy King,

"I will commaund my pleasure:

"Yet humbly, as I am thy father,

" I request and craue;

" Thou art my child, so much the rather,

" Let me aske, and haue."

The Flint by this, was pierc'd with raine, The Marble of her minde Began to yeeld, that she againe Relented, and was kinde.

" To morrow (fayes she) you shall heare

" My resolutions doome:

" Till then, be passified to beare

" For charitie, I'le come."

The King receives her in his armes,

" I pre-thee child, fayes hee,

" (And kiffes her) auoyde the harmes,

" That howerly threaten mee:

" If I should die the losse were great;

" And therefore for to liue,

" Vouchfafe thy Ring, the guift's no cheat,

" That I intreat thee giue:

" Part from it willingly, kind Daughter,

" Well I know thy heart

" Affectes it dearely; yet my slaughter

" Dearer is in part."

At this she smil'd, and answer'd, well:

As if a man should say,

These flattries wins nor heauen nor hell,

And fo she goes her way:

But as she turn'd her out of fight

She castes a bitter looke

Vpon the Doctor, as she might,

But he pour'd on his booke,

As melancholy Students doo,

Whose practise well they know,

Doth want both meanes and matter too,

Yet they must brooke it thoe.

The fithing King fayes, "Courage man,

" Be frolick, tis thy Ring

" And I am thine to boote: what than

" May thy discomfort bring?

" Shall we that all commaund, be thus

" Neclected in a toy?

"No, aske a Countrey next of vs,

" And give that to thy Boy."

That word brought blood into his face,

Which was before so paile.

"Thought he, how near me comes your Grace,

" Ore him I shall preuaile:

" For t'is his ruine I attempt,

" And if I get this Ring,

" His shape of Boy, I'le circumuent,

" He shall be no such thing.

Home comes the Princesse, and all sad.

She throwes her on the bed;

" Alas (fayes she) I shall run mad,

" Such wiles are in my head:

" Oh tis my Finger that poynts to it;

" Tis, it is my Ring;

" And tis a Father, he doth do it,

" Tis a cruell King:

"What is he living else but he,

" That would his Daughter thrall,

" To subiugate himselfe and me,

" Vnto his Vrinall?

" To one whose skill is but as shreads,

" That cunning workemen cut;

" Not Art-professing skilfull heads,

" But more imposture put,

" A mountie bancke our Poet saies,

" Described by his Foxe,

" That fips vp Wine, wherein dead Flies

" Remaine in drowned floxe:

" A Quackfaluer, a Pedagoge,

" A Phisicke cheating knaue,

" A Poysoner, and a cunning Roge,

" To Vertue young and graue:

" One that trots about the land,

" His Budget at his backe,

" As Tinkers, hammering in their hand

" A Kettle with a cracke.

" Oh pardon me faire Modestie,

" And Charitie forgiue!

" I am ashamde vnreuerently,

- "Such flaues as he, should liue." She wets her finger from her lips, And rubs it about the Ring, And mildly off the Rubie slips, That's graunted to the King,
- " Lie there (fayes she) vnworthy I,

" To gaine so ritch a Iem,

" That am inforc'd by flatterie,

" To yeeld thee vp to them."



Argument

Despaire, that towers vp so hie, In mayden griefe and seare: Lights low through loue, and doth desie The danger that sits neare: For from the earth springs vp a shape, That trees the seare of such a rape: And rubic beautic in this Ring, Transformes to loue man, any thing.

CANT. 7.

O sooner did the Ring touch ground But presently doth change Into his former shape prosound, To judgement passing strange.

In cloth of Gold and Pearle to fee, More louely then before: In loue exceeding his degree, For it was ten times more.

" Now sweete (sayes he) why are you sad?

" Why is your beautie paile?"

"You know (quoth she) it makes me mad

" And they will both preuaile."

" I pre'thee Princesse, speake thy minde,

" Though I change shape (sayes hee:)

"Yet Nature is not all so kinde, "To graunt that guift to mee:

" Thus can I heare, and judge a thing,

" Because my senses bee:

" But when I am your Rubic Ring,

" What liuing's then in mee?

" I pre'thee let me heare thy griefe

" I know my Maisters spight

" Pursues me, and is too too briefe,

" This very instant night:

" But in what shape I do not know,

"Yet still my heart perswades,

" Some transformation he doth flrow

" In day and night s blacke shades:

" And fure I am he vnderstands,

" It cannot be denide,

" How like a Rubie on these hands,

" My mortall shape doth bide

" Haue you not heard of such a man

" As feekes your Ring to win?"

"Yes, yes (fayes she) and told him than,

"What levell-coyle had bin; F 2

" How

" How Phisicke had her Father curde,

" Requesting but that guift:

" Which being by the King affurde

" T'was gone, no other shift.

" She had stood out to th' vttermost,

" And more then did befeeme:

" A child against her father lost

" A King of fuch esteeme:

" But now my stoutnes stoopes perforce;

" For who is't will not yeeld?

"When parents praiers prouokes remorce,

" To win the glorious field:

" And I have parted in defence,

" Till composition spake,

" And bade me beg for my pretence

" A Pardon for loue's sake.

" I did it; and he graunted truce

" Conditionally, that hee

" Should have this Ring, and all abuse

" Was pardoned in mee.

" I chaleng'd till the morrow next

" And I would answere them:

" But now stand I the most perplext,

" For I must yeeld the Iem.

" But when my heart fore-thinkes againe

" Thy danger; and now know

" It is thy Maisters Furie then

"That thus pursues thee so:

" I now make protestation,

" It shall neuer bee;

" Ile loose my life before such fashion,

" Wronges my Loue and mee."

As Doctors in their deepest doubts, Stroke vp their foreheads hie, Or men amazde, their forrow flouts, By fqueaning with the eye: Or as the Mayde furcharg'd with woe, Shewes water in her eyes, Or as the Schoole-boy loth to goe Doth trueant scuse deuise; Or as a Wanton in her muse, Doth stand and bite the lip; Or as the Prisoner cannot chuse, But stayes to take the whip: Euen fo stood he, all spent and gone, Solemne deepe possest; Anone he walkes aside alone. And shewes his heart's vnrest By figths and looking vp to heauen, And beating of his hands. The Princesse griefe not much vneuen, His fadnes vnderstands, And forrow can of forrow judge, When meditations by, For filence is a common drudge To inward pollicie; She thus falutes him "Gentle loue, " Mistrust not my true heart; " Tis thine for euer: which to approue, " This Ring shall neuer part,

" I'le die imbracing thee (I fweare)

" As thou shalt compasse mee:

" Nor let it grieue thy minde to heare

" This fodaine extasse;

F 3

Fo.

" For t'is like raine in sunshine; yit

" Which promifes to earth,

" Though cloudy tempest much vnfit

" Will come a time of wirth;

" And so in vs: haue patience then

" These ambiguities

"Will with the Doctors skill to men,

" Threaten vncertainties:

"But more extortion of the ill,

" Will turne to after good."

All this she spake with hearts good will; But t'was not vnderstood, He musde on matter of more waight, How best he might preuent With tricke for tricke his Maisters pate, Which hammer'd ill intent.

" Art come? (fayes he) and is it knowne

" How I escapt thy ire,

" And fled the water, kept my owne,

" To hinder thy desire?

" Alacke poore life, how art thou fought,

" What traps are layde for thee?

" And now I fee tis not for nought,

" My Maister iniures mee:

" Since I not onely am escapt,

" But thus am hie in fauour;

" By meanes and art I'me double shapt,

" Of value and behauour.

" Come, doe thy worst, I have deuis'd:

" Thy welcome is but woe:

" Fore-warn'd, fore-arm'd; and I am wil'd,

" Thy hate to vnder-goe.

" Faire starre of beautie, whose bright shine

" Doth all the Comets dimme;

" Whose blaze makes Metures force decline,

" Being deckt so heavenly trimme.

" Giue hearing now, or neuer, sweete,

" It stands vs both vpon;

" This cunning Doctor wee'le regreete

" With like for like, anone:

" I will assume my last disguise,

" In likenes of the Ring,

" Which thou shalt bring in louing wise; Present it to the King."

" O no (quoth shee) I made an oth,

" That I would neare doe so;

" Nor thou nor it, neither of both,

" I neuer will forgoe:"

" Nor neuer shall you, heare me yit,

" Marke how the deed shall be;

" Such deeds must have a reach of wit

" To baffill fuch as he:

"When thou in humblenes of heart,

" Makst proffer of the same,

" Confesse tis duetie to impart,

" To shun a Fathers blame:

" But churlish cast it on the earth,

" Which be you fure it tucht,

" Or all we do is little worth,

" Although we venture much.

" And for the morall, give me leave

" To judgle, with the Diuell:

" I will explaine, that he'le perceaue,

" His welcome is but euill."

The Princesse weary of her woe, Desirous to be briefe. Applaudes his bidding, will do fo, To cheate this phisicke thiefe, Attires her in her costly weedes, More ritch then euer yit; And to her Father she proceedes, Defirous all should fit. More like a Goddesse lookes she now, Then Princesse made of earth: To whom her Fathers subjectes bow, And blest her hower of birth; Repeating to her as she goes, Her welcome was but ill: But now the Court and Country knowes Shee's blest i'th Kings good-will. These busie Subjectes, such they are, As be in other lands, That carpe at state; and do declare, What no man vnderstands: They'le feeme to know, and what they thinke Is Chronicle for truth: The Prince fils out, and they will drinke, Both fawcie, age and youth: Well, leave them to their vulgar prate, And come we to our storie, The Princesse came, the King in state, Salutes her Virgin glorie: Sees in her eyes, the will confent, And welcomes her with smiles. Sayes, "daughter, heaven and earth are bent " To blesse vs both the whiles,

" This

" This Doctor's here, whose excellence

" Of art and secret skill,

" Hath raif'd an old and ruind fence,

" To stand most strongly still:

" And now no doubt, thou art resolu'd

" To graunt him his request:

" I know thy loue is more reuolu'd

" And lou'st that Iewell best:

" But I have lent thee long a Iemme,

" Of hie and greater wirth;

" My heart, my child, this royall stemme,

" Hath bleft thee from thy birth."

With this, fuch teares the King let fall,

The christall drops so shine,

As it did woe and pittie call,

Their duties to resigne,

Like Diamonds lookt his pearly teares;

For fuch they were of beautie:

Who pitties not his crest falne yeares,

And balmes them with their duetie.

Euen fo doth she and smilingly

Like children to their mother,

Once beaten for their foolery,

Yet they can do no other,

But have the water in their eyes;

Although to please the time,

They laugh and smile, t'is but disguise,

To coulour out their crime.

T'is thus with her whose heart was bent

Still to detaine the Ring,

Yet weeping ripe, in merriment,

Consented to the King:

G

Whom

Whom Wrath with Nature wresteled, And Loue with Anger ioynde: She thus dissembling, nesteled, And this excuse was coynde.

" Sir, as your bidding gaue commaund,

" I come, in humble fort,

" Obedient both in heart and hand,

" To yeeld the conquer'd fort:

" To shew my dutie to your Grace,

" My hearts-hate to this man

" Who in respect of time and place,

" I brooke as best I can:

"Yet who is't hath possession

" Of value and of wirth,

" That gives it intercession

" To one of baser birth,

" But gals at heart, and grieues at foule,

" To let fuch value goe?

" Did not your Maiestie controule,

" And fayd, it should be so?

" Whereto I am a willing child;

" Confessing what I haue,

" Is dedicate, and thus compilde

" Vnto your iudgement graue:

" And heere it is; I kisse it yit,

" Next lay it at your feete.

" To shew my loue, as doth besit

" To one of fuch estate.

" But as it is the price of cure,

" I willingly resigne,

" And do my mayden life affure

" I owe, what else is mine.

"But then againe, as you reuiue

" My Father and my King:

" My coynesse more and more doth striue,

" To part with Life and Ring.

" So much for that: now fir to you

" That challenge at my hand

" A payment royall, ritch, and true,

" And done by great commande:

" Promise me yet before the King,

" As you are what you seeme,

" Not for to wrong this Rubie Ring,

" But hold it in esteeme:

" For many fuch as you (I know)

" Like Esps Cocke, i'th dust,

" Had rather have a Corne to owe,

" Then Stone of fuch a truft:

"You'le weare it in some abiect fort,

" Or change the propertie,

" To make your idle iudgement sport,

" Not like a Lapidarie:

" But as an Alien foolish proud.

" With whom fuch pretious glorie,

"Yet neuer was in thought aloud,

" Or trim'd by cunning for yee." The Doctor now at hob-man blinde,

Begins to cast about,

Why she should thinke him so vnkinde,

G 2

Begins to quele the doubt

With protestations, that he would

Loue, like it, as it ought:

As if of twentie Kings it should

Be highly ouer-bought.

" Alas

" Alas (fayes he) fo much I dote

" Vpon this Pretious stone,

" As I esteeme my venture got,

" Is feconded by none.

" And as my cure is past compare

" For any else to know:

" So my rewards, beyond it farre,

" I loue, and like it fo."

" Come, come (fayes she) thou hipocrite,

" Diffembler of thy kinde,

" I know thy heart, and can recite

"Thy person and thy minde.

" But thinke not (Sir) the damned Diuell,

" Who you so dayly serue,

" Will buckler out this common euill,

" But lets your Vertue starue:

" Tis this you seeke, and there it is;

"Stoope yit and take the paine,

"You little can affoord, I wis, "If not fuch toyle, for gaine.

" My heart doth stoope to your request,

" And you shall stoope thus loe;

" The ground shall yeeld what I loue best:

"And thus I let it goe."
But as the Doctor greedily,
Doth bend him to the earth
To catch the Rubie speedily,
Begins a worke of worth,
Euen in the moment on the ground,
Whereas the Ring did fall:
Sproung a Pomegranet faire and round;
Which sight amazed all.



Argument

Who challenges ignobly,
A gift aboue requeft,
This is the fruite that's got thereby,
Whose vertue is exprest,
To staine and spot, though it be pure:
Euen so it comes to passe;
Who wisely thinkes himselfe secure,
Doth often proue an asse:
As will the sequell shew to all,
What to this Doctor did befall.

CANT. 8.

Recouer'd from this wonderment,
They in their judgement see,
This Fruite was from some power sent,
Vpon the earth to bee:

G 3

And

And euery one begins his pride, To give it prayfes due. The King sayes first: "It is the Bride

" To Beautie, faire and true;

" And was more louely to the eye,

" Then clusters of ripe Grapes,

- " Whose pressure yeelded Wine, whereby
- " The heart from forrow scapes:
- " Or like the woman to the man,

" When she in ornament,

" Lookt like the glorie of the Sunne

" Amidst the Firmament."

The Nobles by, rapt in the prayse; One spake for all the rest, As they in counsell sate and gaise, While Wisedome is exprest.

" To mee (fayes Grauitie) it seemes,

" As Turtles, when they meete,

" Whose good agreeing, judgement deemes

" Hath non parele to greete:

" So is my heart vnto this Fruite,

" Annexed with fuch ioy,

" As well my tongue cannot dispute,

" Whose coulour is Le roy."

The modest Princesse knowing well, The shape, her loue to bee, Begins to shadow, and expell Her griefes, and thus fayes shee.

" My Fathers iudgement is diuine

" Which thought it was a Bride;

" Euen fo thinke I, and would t'were mine,

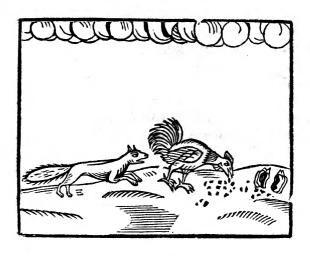
" It were my mayden pride:

" How euer, I will gather it, " It shall be mine in vse:" " Tis (quoth the King) and doth befit "Thy beautie virgin truse." These prayses kild the Doctors heart He knew it was his Boy That thus difguif'd, did feeke to thwart The pride of all his ioy, Lookt like the angry cloudes in blackes, Which threaten shewers of raine; Yet ride vpon the mouing rackes, As it would to the maine: Euen fo did he, his fullen fit Was now the maine of all, For he deuises by his wit, How vengeaunce best might fall. Speake your opinion (fayes the King:) But he fayd little to te, Till on the fodgine he doth fpring And kickt it with his foote: The Curnels flue about the roome, That euery stander by, The King & Princesse past their doome He did deserve to die, To spoyle the beautie of a fruite, Sent there by miracle: Of whose rare being to dispute, Did craue an Oracle. The doomed arts-man straight turnes thrice When they togeather flocke, And by his cunning, in a trice, Appear'd a crowing Cocke:

Strutes

Strutes, and doth clap his feathrie wings Crowes out that all might heare; The other Cockes as loudly finges, That then were fomething neare. The King cals to his Lords for ayde, To coniure downe the Diuell; The Princess and the Lords dismayde, Did bleffe themselues from euill: All in a hurly burly now, The Princesse knew right well The fequell answerd to the vow Her rubie Ring did tell. Whispers her Father, thus she sayes: " Your Maiestie shall see " A comecke iest, and worthy prayse, " If you will credite mee. " I am acquainted in some part, " To all this misterie: " Beseeke you then haue quiet heart, " And note the Historie." By this, the Cocke that prunde himselfe Was iolly in his iette, Growne proud his shape should catch the elfe, That did his fortunes lette, All greedy picks the curnels fast; Whereby the Boy did know T'was time to shift, his life was past, If he were eaten so: He fodainly turnes to a Foxe, To scape his Maisters power; Skips heere, leapes there, with friskes and mocks, Last doth, the Cocke deuower.

Argu-



Argument

Here may you fee how Enuie lurkes,
To worke his diuelish will:
And how against it selfe aworkes,
Is author of yit ill.
This Crocadile of hellish spight,
In vgly malice bred,
Shewes like to Arrowes shot vpright
Falne on the shooters head:
Yet the conclusion doth approoue,
How Hel-borne hate turnes all to loue.

CANT 9.

His tragicke sceane was of distaste,
T'was wonder worthy yit:
Till smyling ioy claps hands in haste,
At this strange poynt of wit:

First

First a Pomegranet, then a Cocke; At last, a Foxe to bee; A miracle, or elfe a mocke, T'was iudg'd of pollicie, The Princesse squats vpon the ground. And smothering in her laughter, Was readie, thus containd to found: But see what followeth after, The fubtile Foxe to add the more Amazement to the wonder, The Princesse sitting on the flore, He creepes her Kirtle vnder: All laugh a good, for heere the Clowne, His Sceane was now to enter, When tragicke shewes had wonne the Crowne, Of fad and bold aduenter: The reason question'd, she is mute, At last, the Foxe vp standes, And like a Graduate doth despute Vpon their late demaunds: T'was now no time to bid them feare, But voyde a further checke: T'was passing strange that they should heare A Foxe fo wifely speake.

In name of Heauens faire trinitie,

" I charge thee (fayes the King)

" Depart in peace; Diuinitie " Doth conjure any thing:

" Or if thou stay'st, reueale I charge

" (In name of God on hie)

" The meaning; let vs heare at large

" Of all this misterie?"

- " Silence then (the Foxe replies)
- " And you shall further heare, and
- "But bouldly listen, and deuise
- " No other cause of feare.
- " It is fufficient what is donne,
- " In terrour, King to thee;
- " Thy ficknesse is againe begonne,
- " Without amendement bee.
- " The cause why this ill fauour'd Diuell,
- " Hath vndertooke this shape,
- " And like a Doctor did this euill,
- " Is for a late done Rape,
- "Vpon the person of a Duke,
- " Of late time banisht hence,
- " Who at thy mouth receau'd rebuke,
- "Yet t'was for no offence:
- " And he is dead that cauf'd the wrong
- " Who on his death-bed told
- " What enuie he had borne him long
- " And while he liude he would:
- Requesting he might be cal'd home;
- " And yet he is not come:
- " Leaving his wronges for thee to attone,
- " His owne to'th highest dome:
- "These Plagues therefore do fall on thee;
- " First, Sicknesse without cure:
- " Then ougly Shapes, which shew to bee
- "The cause, thou art impure:
- " And least thou do the deads commaund,
- " Who did this living wrong,
- " Reuenge hath tooke the cause in hand,
- "That lay obscur'd so long.

H 2

- " Call home the Duke from banishment,
- " Restore him to his owne,
- " Before this royall discontent
- " Be any further showne:
- " And I shall then ascend to rest,
- " Whose Ghost this Doctor rais'd,
- " To heape vp mischiefe on thy crest,
- " Wherein thy state's amaz'd.
- " Thy Daughter here herselfe doth wrong,
- " For tis fo much at least,
- " In thee and her, that she so long,
- " Should doate and loue a Beast.
- " If these be ill presages, iudge,
- " Or ominous, forethinke,
- " That right to reason is a drudge,
- " And wronged in a wincke."

The King as one who in his sleepes Had dreampt all this for true, Such bitter exclamation keepes,

As made them all to rue.

- " Alas (quoth he) I am abuf'd
- " My Sicknesse hath his force:
- "This Doctors doing hath reful'd,
- " To worke in right remorce,
- " What Plagues hath lighted on my head
- " For Incredulitie
- " Vpon the Innocent, and bred
- " By noble Treacherie;
- " Was I the Judge and Juror too,
- " In this fo wicked Will,
- " To banish, and vnknowne to doo
- "A Duke fuch secret ill;

" Forgive it Heauens, and pardon Earth,

" My self I'le reconcile

" To Mercie: in this wretched birth,

" That I enioy the while.

"Goe call him home, we will furrender,

" His detayned good;

" And by our Parliament make tender,

" Of his Noble blood.

" I am a foole to credite fuch

" Before I fee the proofe:

- "But t'is a fault in Kings too much,
- "Where Iudgement keepes aloofe:
- "Hencefoorth I will aduise and know,

"Before I censure ought;

- " In banishment to ouerthrow,
- " In word, in deed, or thought.
- " And let all princely Potencie,

" Example take by mee.

- "What t'is to harme Nobilitie,
- "When they shall guiltles bee.
 "Hee's dead and gone, that did this ill,

" Whereto I was an ayde:

" And onely I left forrowing still,

" And iustly am repayde."

Hence post the Nobles seuerall wayes,

With Proclamations hire,

To call the noble Duke, whose dayes

Shall haue their first desire

The fubtile Fox cals to the King;

"T'is not enough (fayes he)

" As pledge of this, give me thy Ring,

" That fo and fo't shalbe."

H 3

T'was

T'was given in presence of them all And witnesse tooke thereon:
No sooner graunted, but with all,
The Foxe was strangely gone;
And in his roome stood vp a Youth,
Of person faire and free.
Then did the King beleeue for trueth,
All certaine, he did see:
He knew the Boy, t'was sonne to him
The banisht Duke that's hence;
As like in feature, voyce and lim,
As wrong is to offence:
He tooke him in his royall armes:

"May I be bold (fayes hee)

" And be affurde from other harmes,

" As is my loue to thee?"

" Sir (quoth the Lad) even thus it is

" My Father banisht so,

" Liues in a Citie much amisse,

" In grieuous want and woe:

" And glad was so to liue disguis'd,

" Least your all angrie dome,

" For his remaine had then fuffiz'd,

" In iustice to haue come:

" He bound me to a Taylors trade,

" To blinde his state the more;

" And me (though young) he did perswade

" To secrecie, therefore

" I, in my childish wisedome knew

" He died, if I were knowne;

" Was fecret and obedient true,

" And learnd to keepe my owne:

and his Boy.

" But see how blessed Fortune wrought,

" That all should come to light

" By me and not by me, t'was fought,

"Heavens finger poynts aright.

" My skill of trade exceeded his

" That was my Maister then;

" He held it for his preiudice,

" I got the loue of men:

" And in his braine fprung vp a blood

" Of rancor and blacke hate,

" And all my fortunes he withstood,

" Though I made good, his state:

"He practiz'd then Pithagoras,

"To alter shapes of men;

" I also was as prosperous." In his proceedings then:

"But when his enuie did perceaue

" My boldnesse was as strong,

" All honest duetie he did leaue,

"To do my life much wrong:

"But I obedient, when I had

" Got knowledge in this art,

" Came to my Father, and was glad

" Some fuccour to impart

"Transform'd my selfe into a Steed,

" And gaue my felfe to fell:

" Which money did relieue his need.

" And fonne-like I did well;

" My enuious Maister knew by art,...

"That I was in this forme,

44 Attired like a Marchant, straight

44 He bought me to much harme,

The Italian Taylor

" Had not his children from the stable

" Led me foorth to drinke,

" From that difguise I was vnable

" Ere to change (I thinke)

" But then by them vnfadled,

" As Ait wil'd that I should;

" My shape of Horse was altered

" To what my wishing would:

" And knowing Land was in his power,

" To vse me as he list,

"I to a Fish that present hower,

" Was changed ere they wist:

" He likewise shapt into a Fish,

" I'th Water to pursue me;

" Who when I faw his enuious wish,

" And that his malice knew me,

" I fodainely difguif'd againe,

" Like to a rubie Ring,

" And left the filuer floting maine,

" To worke thy cure, ôKing.

" My Maister for to conquere me,

" Difguis'd thus Doctor like,

" Procurde thy health, and instantly

" The stroke of all did strike:

" This good was yours: now give me leave

" To doe our selues some right;

" I like a Rubie did perceaue

" My selfe with her one night;

" Awakened her: and when she felt

" A naked body neare,

" For fo I was transform'd yet deelt

" Right nobly, neuer feare.

and his Boy.

" So when she heard your grace had given

" The Doctor this her Ring,

- "Who beg'd of purpose to make euen
- " His malice which did spring;

"She yet denide it by my will,

" Then neuer blame her birth;

" My counfell was she should fulfill

" Your bidding in this wirth:

"Yet cast it on the sollide ground,

" As if her enuie scornde

" All true obedience to confound:

"Yet was her doing charmde;

" For on the fodaine there-hence fprong

" A faire Pomegranet bye

" Which your ritch prayses freely song,

" Most louely to the eye.

"Whereat the Doctor was all hate

"And comming roundly to' te,

" Before your Grace and Lords of state,

" He kickt it with his foote:

" The Kirnels flew about the roome;

" But I the one by happe,

" By fortune to escape his doome,

" Flew in the Princesse lappe:

" He knowing all his art was then,

"Repayde but with a mocke,

" Before you and your Noble men,

" Turn'd to a crowing Cocke

" And pickt the Kirnels hungerly,

" Thinking to deuower

" And worke my liues Catastrophy:

" But I was from his power.

" For

The Italian Taylor

- " For like a Foxe, I eat the Cocke,
- " As you, and these haue seene;
- "Your judgements tell this is no mocke,
- "That stand where all hath beene:
- "Onely my wife here by true graunt,
- " She will confesse she is;
- " And in that bold and noble vaunt,
- " I feare I do amisse."

With this, the milde and modest Princesse Humbly kneeled loe,

And in a filent yeelding dumnesse,

Shew'd it to be so.

The King with ioy shed royall teares;

" Alacke my childe (fayes hee)

- " Shall I be bane of thy young yeares?
- " No, it shall neuer bee.
- " And though we rashly run at base,
- " To catch what hand we can,
- " Yet greater power doth guide the race
- " Of Woman and of Man.
- " His blood is pure, though stain'd by mee;
- " And slaunder now, that's dead,
- " T'is pardon'd and reclaimd, you fee;
- " That euill be on his head.
- " Dispatcht we haue Embassadours,
- " This noble Duke to bring
- " To ioyne his Father's voyce with ours,
- " In mariage of this Ring:
- " For that's the price of all my good;
- " And that's your glorie too,
- " By vertue of which vnderstood,
- " All this is like to doo;

and his Boy.

"My Sonne and Heire I thee create" And all the Nobles by, Cride out, Amen; it was too late To aske a reason why.

T'was knowne so openly to all, Proclaimd quite through the Realme, Thus as I slept, a voyce did call, And wakt me from my Dreame:

Vpright I set me in my bed, And being awake did know All these were phansies in my head, And it was nothing so.

To conclude now.

Me thinkes some perfumde Polititian, that practifeth more the Pennie than the Penne, rashly reades, and rudely returnes, this sooles boult, Tis ballade stuffe: to him, I answere thus.

Cammelion-like thy minde misgiues,
All coulour's like thy owne:
Thy greene goose wit no more atchiues,
Then what thy trade hath knowne,
Thou politicke presaging Asse
Forbeare to kicke at kindnesse:
With crooked limmes, and looke of brasse,
And eyes bebleard with blindnesse:
Trot on the hoose, deuis'd in prose,
While these as stanzes stayes

To

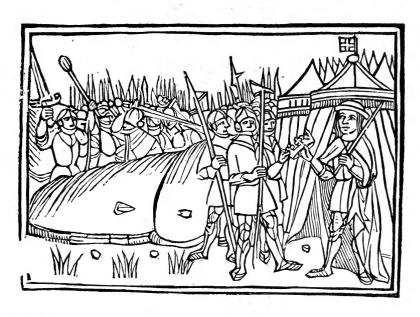
The Italian Taylor

To out rime thy ill reason'd cloze In thy corruptiue prayse: Conclude in charitie thou soole, That think'st thy selfe most wise: Thy wit, not worthie's any Schoole, T'is salt and too precise.

Vituperato nequid laudando laude fruaris, Sic tua laus fuerit, quod mibi laudis opus.

FINIS.

Mereafter ensue the trewe encountre oz.. Batayle lately don betwene. Englade and: Scotlande. In whiche batayle the. Scotlabe. Kynge was flayne.



Themaner of thaduaucelynge of my lozd of Surrey tresourier and. Marshall of. Englande and leuetenute generall of the north pties of the same with. rrvi. M. men to wardes the kynege of. Scott and his. Armye vewed and nombed to an hundred thousande menat/theleest.

** **

* **

Irste my sayd Lorde at hishe.
rngeat Awnewik in Porthumbrelandethe

iii. daye of . Septembre the.b. yere of y Rey

ane of kynge Henry the. biii. herynge that b hrnge of Scottes thenne was remoued from. Porhme-And dvd live at forde. Castel ain those ptyes dyd moche hurte in spoylyng robynge and brennynge fent to the farde kringe of Scottes Ruge Cros purleuaunte at. Ar mes to theme butohym that for somoche as he the sarde kyinge contrary to his honour all good reason a conscy ence And his oothe of Fidelite for y ferme entartnynge of vervetuall yeas betwene the king hranes our . So uerayne lorde and hym had inuaded this Baalme fooy lad brente and robbyd dyuers and sondery townes and places in the fame. Also had caste and betten downe the Castel of Porhme And crewella had murdered a savne many of the kynnes liege people he was comen to gyue hym bayta. And defyredhym y for | so moche | as he was a hynge and a great Prynce he wolde of his lufty a nol ble courage colent therunto and tarve y same. And for my fayde Lordes partie his lordethyp promyfed y affu red Accomplyshement and perfourmance therof as he was true knyght to god and the kynge his mayller The kynge of scottes herynge this message revnued a kepto m hym y layd Ruge Cros pursenauta a wolde nat suffre hym at y tyme to retourne agayne to my sayd lorde

The.b.daye of Septembre his lorothyp in his approchynge nyghe to the borders of. Scotlande | mustred at Bolton in glendayll a lodged that nyght therein y fel-

de with all his Armye.

The nerte day beynge the bi daye of Septembre the kynge of Cottes fent to my fayd for of Surrey a harol de of his called. Flaye and demaunded if that my fayde Lorde wolde insterpe the message fent by the sayd purse

uaunte ruge cros asisa foreland lygnelyinge that if my lorde wolde so doo it was the thrnge that moost was to his. Jore end comforte. To this demaunde implord ma de antwere afore dyners lordes knyghtes and gentylme nyahe.iii mylesfrom the felde whereysthe farde harolde was appropried to tarre breaufe he builde nat bewe the Armye that he commaunded nat oonly the layde. Rugecros to suche and thewe the serve werdes of his message-But also gave and comptted buto hunt the same bu. In-Aruccyon franed and subscribed withhis owne hande whiche nev favde lorde favd he wolde. Austefvel and for so moche ashis lordhyp concepued by the larde Parolde how. Joyous and comfortabe his message was to vsay de kynge of scottes he therfore for the more assuraunce of his wellage the wed that he wolde be bouden in.r. Adli. & good fuertes with his. Lordfhyp to arue the farde krnge bataple by frydage nert after at the furthest If that the Larde kringe of | scottes wolde | allrie and apporte any | other Erle or Erles of his | Realme to be bounden in lyke maner that he wolde abrde niv farde | lordes communae And for somoche as the land kange of. Scotted reevuued Ayll with hym Ruge Crospurfeuaute and woldenat fuf fre hymto retourne to mylorde my layde lorde in lyke a femblablemaner dyd kepe | with | hymthe fcotteffhe Ha rolde. Alay and fant to the fard kringe of scottes with his answere and further offer asis afdrerehersed Agentyl man of scotlande that accompanyed and came to my say de lorde wieh the fard Harolde. Ilay | And thus. Ilay con tynued and was kepte close tyll the communge home of Ruge croswhiche bas the nert daye after | And thenne | Alay whs put at large and lyberte to retourne to the kyn ge of scotteshismaysteretoshewemplordes answres de claracyons and goodly offers as he had hade in every be halue of my sayde lorde.

T. The same days my Lordedeuyded his Arms in two bataylles that is to wytte in a vauwarde and a rerewar de and ordeyned my lorde Hawarde Admorall his some to be. Capitayne of the sayde vaunwarde and hym selfe to by these Capitayne of the rerewarde.

TIn the brefte of h fayd baunwarde was in the fayde. Lorde Admorall is. thousande men and boder Capitay nes of the fams brefte of the batayle was the lord. Lumley-syrwyllm Bulmer-the baron of Hylton and dyuer se other of the Byshopryche of Duresme-boder. Seyot-Cuthbert banner the lorde. Scrope of bysall the lorde Ogle for wyllyam Gascoygne for Cristoser warde fyr John Eueringhm fir walter Bristith syrJohn. Gowerand dyuers other Esquyres and gentylmen of yorkeshyre and Porthumberlaed And in ayther wynge of the fame batayle was in Amen.

The Capitagne of the right wynge was mayster Edmonde gawarde some to my segue lorde of Surrey Andwith hym was syr. Thomas Butler syr. John. Boothe syr Richarde Boolde and dynerse other Esquyers agentylmen of Lancashyre end Chashyre.

The Capitayne of the laste wynge was old syr Par maduke. Tosteble & with hym was mayster wythm Percy his sona. Clawe willin Constable his broder syr. Robert Constabla mamaduke Constable willin Constable his sones and syr John Costable of holdernes with dy. uerse his kynnesmen allies and othea Sentylmen of yor keshyre and Northumberlande.

An the breste of batayle of the sayde rerewarde was. o H. mon with my salde lorde of Surrey and under. Capitaydes of the same was the lord Scrope of Bolton syr 19hilype Tyney broder Clawe to my sayd lord of. Surrey George darcy sone and heyre to the lorde Darcy say

de beyinge Capitayne of the firste batayle of the Scotths fyersty dyd tette bpon maister Comonde Pawarde. Cal pitayne of the bitermoste parte of the felde at the west ty de. And betwene them was so cruell batayle that many of our partie. Chesshyremen and otherdyd see And the sayd mayster Comonde in maner lefte alone without so coure and his standerde and bererof the same beten and hewed in pecesand hym sel. thryse stryken downe to the groud. Howbeit lyke a couragyous and hardy yonge su stygentylman he recoured agayne and saught hande to hade with one sir Dauyhome slewe hym with his owne hande with one sir Dauyhome allewe hym with his owne handes. And thus she sayde mayster Comonde. was in great perelland daunger tyll that the lorde Dacrelyke a good and an hardy knyght releucd and came buto hym. for his socoure.

The seconde Batavle came boon my lorde. Hawarde The thirde batarle wherin was the kunge of. Scottes & molte parte of the noble men of his. Reame came frerly buonniv favd lord of. Surrey | whiche two bataplies by the helpe of elnipathy god were after a great confydelpe. te benguyshed overcomen betten downe a put to flyght and fewe of them escaped. with they rlyues fyr. Edwarde Stanley beynaeat the ottermoste parte of the sayd rere. marde onehelte partie sernge the fourthe batarle redy to releve the large hynge of scottes batarle couragrouslyand luke a lufty and an hardy kunght dud fette byon the same and overcame a put to flyaht all the scottes in the fard batarle. And thus by the grace focour and helpe of almyabty god victory was arren to the Reame of. Ena land. And all the scottrss the ordendace wonne abrought to. Ettell and Barwykein. Suretie.

M Pereafter encueth the names of condry noblemen of the cottes capie at the cape batagle a felde called Brainston moore.

Irde y kyng of scotoes Lorde. Elweston. L Tae. Archelysshop of seynt. Androwes.

The bullhop of. Thyles. The bytthop st. Ketnes. The abbot ynchaffrey. The abbot of Aylwenny Therle of. Adountroos.

Therle of. Traforde.

Therle of. Argyle. Therle of lennor

Therle of. Lencar.

Therle of. Castelles.

Therle of. Boothwell

Therle. Arell. Constable.

Lorde. Lowett.

Lorde forboos.

Lorde. Anderby Lorde. Darwell. Mackeya. Mac. Cleen. John of graunte The mailt of. Agwis. Lorde. Roos. Lord tempyll. Lorde.Borthphe. Lorde. Askill. Lorde. Dawissie.

Sir Alexander Sotlon

SireJohn home. Lorde.Coluin.

Sir Daur home.

Cuthberthome of. Fascastell Her a aboue the fevd piones there at flavne

of the Scottes bewd by my lorde. Dacre the noumbre of. ri. or. rii. thousande mend Andof Englyssme staken prysoners boon-

rij.C.dyuers prysoners are taken of y scottes But noo Motable person saue oonly syr | wyllm. Scotte knyght Councellour of the lapde kynge of scottes and as island a nentylmä well lerned Also st John Formä knynht bro der to the Bullhop of Burrey which bullhop as is repor ted was & lis mooff pryncyall procurour of this warrel and one other called (F John Colehome many other fcot tyffhe prysoner.coude and myght have been taken butthey were foo bengeable & cruell in theyr fyghtngy that whenne Englysthmen had the better of them they wolde nat fatte them though it so were that dynerse scottes offe red great sumes of money for theyrlyues.

A. It is to be noted that the felde beganne betwene, iiij

and.v. at after Poone and contynued within night if it had fortuned to have ben further afore night many mo fcottes had ben flayne and taken prysoners sowings beto almyghty god all the noble men of Englande tha we re byon the same felde bothe lordes and knyghtes are sa fe from any hurte And none of theym awantynge save oonly maister Parray Bray syr Puinfeide lyle bothe pry soners in Scotlade syr John. Bower of yorkestyre and syr John Boothe of Lancasthyre both wantynge and as yet nat founden

TIn this batagle the scottes hadde many great Auaun tagies that is to wytte the hyghe. Hylles and mountagines a great wynde with them and sodagne ragne all con

trary to oug bowes and Archers

A Itisnat to be doubted but the scottes foughtmanly and were determined outher to winne hifelde or to die They were also as well apointed as was possible at all pointes with Armoure a harneys so that fewe of them were same with arrowes Howbeit the bylles did beter and he we them downe woth some payne and damiger to

Englosshemen.

The layd scottes were to playnely determined to aby de batagle and nat to flee that they put from them they phorses and also put of they botes and shoes and saught in the bampis of they hooses every man for the moose ptie with a kene and a shape spere of b. yerdes longe and a target a forth hym And when they speres sayled and wera spent then they saught with great end sharpe swer des making sytellorno noys bithoue that that for the ptie many of them wolde desyre to be saued.

The felde where y scottes dyd lodge was nat to be reprouyd but rather to be romended greatly for there many and great nombre of goodiyl tenttes and mochegood stuffe in the same a in the sayd felde was plentic of wyne

bere ale beif multon fallysshe chete and other bytalles necessary and convenyent for such a great Army Albeit our Armye doutynge that the sayd bytallyes hadde ben poysoned for theyr distruccyon woldenat save but better by distroyed theym.

Thereafter entueth the names of such moble menasafter the felde were made knyght for theyr valyauce Actin the same by my sayd lorde there of Surrey.

Affirste my lord Scrope of Sir willin Bercy (wpfall Sir Comonde Pawarde Sirgeorge Barcy. Sir.w.gascoygne y yoger Sir. willim. Mediton Sir willin. Maleuerdy Sir Thomas. Bartley Sir marmaduke. Collable (v voger Sir rvoter. Wacre Sir. Hohn. Hoothome. Sir. Nicholas. Appleparde. SireEdwarde. Goorge Sir. Rauf. Ellercar v pogeo Sir. John wyliyby Sir.Edwarde.Echinahme Sir.Edwarde . Musgraue Sir. John Canley Sir walter fonner Sir. Pruiane martynfelde. Sir. Raffe. Bowes Sir Briane stapleton of myghall.

Sir. Bur. Dawny Sir. Raffe falwayne Sir. Richarde. Malleuerey Sir willin. Constable of Patefelde Sir willin. Constable of Larethorve Sir. Fpofer. Danby Sir. Thomas Burght Sir willin Rous Sir Thomas. Dewton Sir.Roger of Fenwyke Sirkoger Grav Sir. Thomas Connvers My.lorde Dale Sir. Thomas strngewate Sir. Henri. Thiuaittes ABy lorde lumley Sir.Xpofe.Wekerynge. Sir.John Bulmer **T**Emprented by me. Kicharde. Faques dwllyng An voulvs churche verde





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